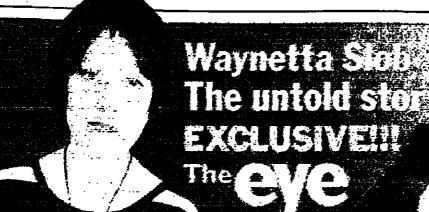


IHE INDEPENDENT

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Rain, sleet or snow

(IR 65P) **60**p



Michael Flatie The Lord of self control



Michael Harrison, Peter Rodgers and Gill Treanor

The £20bn giveaway of shares in the Halifax and other building societies in coming months is set to dwarf the instant profits made during the Thatcher privatisation years, boosting the feel-good factor in the run-up to the general election and beyond.

Between a third and a half of the adult population will share the bonanza, with most hand-outs in the region of £500 to £2,000.

Under the terms of the Halifax flotation announced yesterday, 8.5 milion people will receive shares worth an average of £1,300 in June. Just over four million will receive the minimum allocation of 200 free shares worth between £780 and £900. The rest will receive this plus an additional hand-out of up to 981 shares, depending on the balance in their accounts on two key dates.

Members can vote by post by 17 February or in person at the special general meeting in Sheffield on 24 February. More than 50 per cent of the society's investing members - over 3.3 million - must vote in favour

for the flotation to proceed.

The other building societies lining up to convert from mutual status include the Woolwich, which is paying out shares worth £3bn, and the Alliance and Leicester. which will be worth £2.5bn. The total amount being distributed to savers and boralent to 10p off the basic rate of income tax for one year and four to five times as large as the biggest Budget handouts ever seen. Economists forecast yesterday that the

giveaway would boost consumer spending by between £6bn and £8bn, with roughly two-thirds of the free shares saved and one -third cashed in and spent on holidays, home improvements, clothes and the like. The £20bn in free shares compares with

the estimated £6bn that investors could have made by cashing in their shares in privatised companies immediately after flotation. Whereas about 10 million people have benefited from the £66bn privatisation proInstant profits 🕖



gramme since 1979, nearly twice that number will benefit from the building society rways. Nor does the £20bn figure include the £4bn flotation of the insurance company, Norwich Union, scheduled for summer, or the £3.2bn of cash and shares already handed over to consumers from earlier building society flotations and takeovers.

Simon Briscoe, economist at the Japanese securities house Nikko said the boost to the economy, although small in comparison with total annual consumer expenditure of £550bn, would increase pressure for higher rates. Other economists warned an en that the building society windfall would lift the growth in consumer spending to even more unsustainable levels.

David Walton of investment bankers Goldman Sachs said: "Households with the right building society accounts will gain this year but those consumers with borrowings will lose out." Other City experts fear that the legacy of the instant windfall payouts will be dearer home loans as quoted building societies are forced to raise mortgage rates so they can afford to make dividend payments to shareholders. Economists believe that the conversion of building societics will do the same for consumer

confidence as did council house sales in the early 1980s and privatisation in the late

The impending flood of financial institutions on to the stock market is reckoned to be one reason why the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, calculated he could get away with consumer tax cuts of just £750m in last November's Budget.

Kevin Gardner, chief economist at the US bank Morgan Stanley, said: "This is all part of the ongoing story of improving con-sumer confidence. The building society giveaways are the icing on the cake, but the cake was already pretty big already."

If the entire £20bn were cashed in, it

would be enough to finance the entire country's high-street shopping for seven weeks and would give a boost to the economy four or five times as large as the biggest Budget handouts ever seen. This would almost certainly lead to a raging boom and a leap in inflation, and force the Government to raise interest rates sharply.

Nikko's consumer research found that one in six would spend their windfall, but the older and wealthier who generally get the largest payouts were more likely to save it. The evidence so far is that consumers are likely to react cautiously. Last year, there were building society windfalls totalling £3.2bn when Cheltenham & Gloucester was taken over by Lloyds Bank and National 16 per cent of N&P shares were cashed in.

David Owen, an economist at Kleinwort Benson, said this probably boosted growth by about 0.5 per cent, and he expects a further 0.5 to 0.75 per cent this year as a result of the renewed windfalls.

Only one society, the Alliance & Leicester, will have paid its members before the likeliest election dates in April and May. But the Halifax flotation - the biggest, with a handout of more than £11bn - the Woolwich flotation and the Bristol & West takeover by Bank of Ireland will issue payments shortly aferwards, in June and July. Halifax details, page 18

Is this the first woman author in Britain?



tors for him to be unshackled, he was

on Friday, 3 January, a bail application

was made in the morning. The chains

were taken off at 11am on grounds of compassion and he died at 2.45pm.

medical director, yesterday criticised the

attitude of the prison service. She said: "I think it's desperately sad ... Mr

Thomas couldn't have run away any-

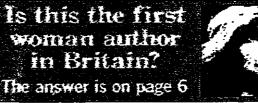
where. He needed help to sit up in bed."

dered an inquiry, saying it "very much

regretted" Mr Thomas's death.

Last night the Prison Service or-

Professor flora Finlay, Holme Tower's



Awakening: Darcy Bussell rehearsing the lead role in the Royal Ballet's Sleeping Beauty, which has music by Pyotr Hyich Tchaikovsky, choreography by Marius Petipa and designs by Maria Bjornson. Anthony Dowell's production opens at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, central London, today Photograph: Laurie Lewis

The Prison Service said last night that way in the world he could escape. My dition and repeated requests from doc-

Mr Thomas was arrested in October

accused of stealing a video recorder.

radio and a telephone in a burglary at

a house in his home town of Caerphilly, South Wales, and remanded in custody.

He was taken ill on 23 December and

admitted to the city's University Hospital

of Wales where he was found to be in

the final stages of stomach cancer. He

was transferred to the Marie Curie

cancer hospice at Holme Tower, Penarth,

on New Year's Day to control his pain.

Despite his rapidly deteriorating con-

son was dying in front of our very

The answer is on page 6

ying cancer patient chained to bed

it was setting up an inquiry into the use

of restraints on prisoners. This follows

a series of cases involving handcuffed of

women being taken to hospital to give

Thomas said of her son yesterday: "He

should have been allowed to die with dig-

nity. He couldn't even walk, let alone

handcuffs and chain off but they would-

n't listen. The guards wouldn't even lis-

ten to the doctors. It is an inhuman way

to treat a man who is dying. There is no

She added: "I begged them to take the

Marina Davies, the mother of Mr

birth and for breast cancer treatment.

Jason Bennetto

hospice bed by prison officers despite

Geoffrey Thomas, 25, who was awaiting trial for burglary, was only un-

shackled three hours before he died of

stomach cancer. One ankle had been

chained to the bed, but the shackle was

transferred to his wrist after his ankle

became swollen. He had been guarded

at the hospice near Cardiff by two

prison officers but was unable to walk.

pleas from his mother and doctors.

Empress bungle A catalogue of avoidable failares, bungled bureaucracy and illegations of financial loss Crime Correspondent armed the Sea Empress accilent into a disaster, according An inquiry has been ordered into why Page 2 to a report. a dying cancer patient was chained to his

Patten challenged Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten was facing a serious thallenge over allegations that senior immigration official was wolved in corruption and that efficials lied about whether he

as fired.

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fuelled by the Home Office minister David Maclean last night when he claimed that most beggars are Scots who sleep rough out of choice.

The Scots-born MP for Penrith and the Border described the beggars who asked him for money in London as "a dis-grace" and an "embarrasscalled his remarks an "insult to fellow Scots".

Mr Maclean said of beggars: "I always give them something - I give them a piece of my mind. Most of them are Scottish and I've never met one yet who politely and gently asked

uine beggars. Those who are in need have got all the social ben-

efits they require. we find they won't go in hostels. Beggars are doing so out of choice because they find it more pleasant."

His comments, made to the News & Star newspaper in ment". Opposition parties Carlisle, come just days after the Prime Minister accused the Labour leader, Tony Blair, of "hypocrisy" for appearing to back New York-style "zero tolerance" policies against beggars. John Major said Mr Blair had

measures. Mr Blair has said he don, and added: "Maybe my ears does not give cash to beggars. but that he buys The Big Issue "Every time we go and check, magazine for the homeless and wants to see proper provision to take them off the streets.

Labour frontbencher Henry McLeish said yesterday: "David Maclean's comments are disgraceful and an insult to fellow Scots. Mr Maclean's comments speak volumes about the Tory Government. This Government has a care-nothing, do-nothing attitude, and ... seeks only

scapegoats, not solutions."
But Mr Maclean said he was inally denounced the Govern- Scottish beggars and drunks, minister stood by his remarks.

are more attuned to the Glasgow accent." However, he praised sellers of The Big Issue and people who cleaned car windscreens at traffic lights, saving they were doing a "good job" and "doing

their bit to help themselves". Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, also denounced Mr Maclean, saying:"It's insulting to Scots and irresponsible." He accused Tory and Labour politicians of picking on unfortunate people in their cheap trawl for votes".

Last night, government and often accosted by aggressive Torv party sources said the

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Hey Jimmy: heard about the minister who thinks most beggars are Scots? The row over the homeless was for money. There are no gen-ment for backing such tough who frightened visitors in Lon-



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Full details and a list of participating Minotel hotels will be printed on Sunday 12 January and Monday 13 January.



Some hotels will permit longer stays on the same basis: pay for two nights and stay for four etc.





Bleak midwinter: A flock of geese head east over Essex. A fortnight's ban on shooting wildfowl was imposed yesterday by the Department of the Environment to help safeguard birds enfeebled or unable to feed properly because of the freezing temperatures. Weather forecast, The Long Weekend, page 25

Photograph: Brian Harris

Bungle led to tanker disaster

A catalogue of avoidable fail- ran aground off Milford Haven ures, bungled bureaucracy and in south-west Wales in Februallegations of financial loss turned the Sea Empress accident into a disaster, according to a leaked report.

The draft document, leaked to the BBC and due to published within the next two months by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, has put the Government under considerable pressure to review procedures designed to protect the coastline from pollution

Although the shipping minister, Lord Goschen, criticised the leaked information and the furore it has caused as "inappropriate and premature", opposition politicians described the leak's content as "deeply disturbing" and called on the Government to take immediate action to ensure future co-ordination salvage operations.

Liberian flag of convenience, ary last year. Ferrying crude oil from Scotland, the tanker failed to manoeuvre correctly into the two-mile wide entrance to the refineries.

A pilot was on board as she approached the harbour, but she still hit the rocks. The charts he was following are said to have been inaccurate

According to the BBC's account of the draft report, "timeconsuming and unnecessary bureaucratic procedures" resulted in the ship being grounded for seven days rather than two. The ship was carrying almost 130,824 tonnes of oil and spewed 70,000 tonnes into the sea. The massive spill, the full environmental impact of which is still to be evaluated, cost United Kingdom taxpayers an estimated £10m. Marine scientists are still studying the effects, especially those on two sea-bird

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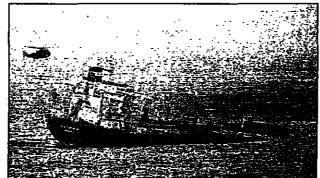
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colonies in the area which are among Europe's most valuable. Environmentalists say that the overall biological damage may not be fully understood for an-

other decade. When the report is published it is expected to say that the navigational charts around the mouth of the harbour were inadequate and not up to date. Inaccurate information was alleged to have been given on

the tides and the rescue operation is described as "salvage by

committee" Commenting on the report, Captain Ian Evans, a former marine safety adviser, said that a captain of a local pilot ship had told the salvage operators that the Sea Empress could have been moved in two days after the initial grounding. The advice was ignored.

in the attempted clean-up.

sant was used, the largest vol- on the accuracy of charts for the ume ever in a UK rescue.

Guy Linley-Adams, conservation director at the Marine Conservation Society, claimed that the first priority when the ship ran aground was finance. We should never again allow the financial liabilities to cloud the judgement of those seeking to save a stricken and heavily laden tanker." Mr Linley-Adams says the Government should now adopt a "command system" similar to that used in France where one person is appointed overall controller of a disaster with full authority that cannot be overridden by insur-

Labour's transport spokesman. Andrew Smith, described the draft as "deeply disturbing". He added: "It is alarming that the charts for the approaches to Britain's biggest oil port are reported to be inaccurate." He urged Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport,

approaches to other ports and

heavily trafficked sea-lanes' Yesterday it remained possi ble that the report would have altered conclusions. Captain Peter Marriott, Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents, and one of the report's authors, said he was required to consult "those whose reputations may be adversely affected by my report". He added: "Until I have had an opportunity to consider any comments I receive from the individuals concerned my report cannot be finalised."

The report is also highly critical of the competence of harbour pilots, revealing that "the training and examination of pilots at Milford Haven are unsatisfactory". John Pearn, a the ship grounded, was initially suspended but back handling supertankers after being reinstated by Milford Haven Port Authority.

Paedophile driven out of council home

A convicted paedophile was vesterday driven out of the council accommodation where he was living, following a warning to schools by the local education authority. The man was taken away

from a bed-and-breakfast on the Raploch estate near Stirling, Central Scotland, after a protest by about 35 angry parents.
Police and council officials decided to move him because of concerns about his personal

The case is the latest in the debate about whether convicted sex offenders should be allowed to live in the community and if so, whether parents should be told.

The demonstration followed recent warning to 12 local schools by Stirling Council. It did not name the man, but he has been named locally as Alan Christie, 50, who was released from prison in October after being jailed for a year at Stirling Sheriff Court last April, when he admitted lewd and libidinous conduct towards a girl of four. The court heard it was not his first offence and there were fears he could re-offend.

A council spokesman said the

where to live and under homeless legislation we have to find him somewhere to live. Where he was is now intolerable," he He added that the man could

where: "He does not have any-

"There is an arrangement with other local authorities for emergency situations where we

be taken to another part of Scot-

have to move someone elsewhere quickly." Mothers expressed relief that he had been been forced to leave the area. Losley Marshall, 27. who has four young children said: "Families did not let their kids out on Thursday night

when we found out he was here ... We're just absolutely relived he's gone". The council defended its decision to advise local schools in December that a convicted paedophile was living in the area.

The education services director, Gordon Jeyes, said the council issued the alert as a 'prudent" precaution. The case comes two days af-

ter a council official in Birmingham faced disciplinary action for allegedly alerting mothers on a Birmingham council estate man would be rehoused else- that a paedophile was moving the district.

into the area. Mike Wood, housing officer for the city council, allegedly tipped off mothers on the estate in Garrett's Green that George Taylor, who had been jailed for indecent assault on a young girl was moving into the area.

Yesterday housing chiefs in Birmingham were said to be considering banning known child sex offenders from the city's 97,000 council homes. The local authority in Mid-

diesbrough has also announced that it will formally exclude sex offenders from estates. And last November head teachers at a group of primary schools in South Wales wrote to parents warning about a paedophile who moved into the area. The teachers passed on details of the man's appearance, type of car and vehicle registration number after police tipped off the local education authority.

Last December, ministers announced that paedophiles and other sex offenders will have to register their addresses with the police and that they were also considering a system from the United States in which communities were informed when paedophiles moved into

significant shorts

Butcher accused over E.coli deaths

The butcher at the centre of the food poisoning outbreak which has left 16 pensioners dead appeared in court yesterday to face a charge of culpable and reckless conduct.

John Barr, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, appeared on petition at Hamilton Sheriff Court to face the charge which arises from the alleged supply by him of cooked meat from his shop. After the hearing, the Scottish Office released a statement which said Barr was committed for further examination and released on bail.

The statement said: "The Lord Advocate has emphasised to the procurator fiscal at Hamilton and Crown counsel that the public interest demand that in this case investigations be concluded without delay and that any trial should proceed as soon as possible."

Family visit for nurses in Saudi

The families of two British nurses held in Saudi Arabia accused of murder are set to visit them in jail tomorrow. Lucille McLauchlan, 31,

from Dundee, and Deborah Parry, 41, from the Midlands are accused of killing 55year-old Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford. The visit has been part arranged by Dundee West MP Ernie Ross who is a personal friend of the Saudi ambassador.

Man accused of IRA attack

A man was due to appear in court today in connection with Monday's IRA rocket attack outside the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast. The 27-year-old man is accused of conspiracy to

Meanwhile, another five men are being questioned by detectives in Belfast in connection with the attack and the no-warning IRA car bombing of the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters last October when 31 people were injured. One soldier later died.

BT pioneers alert system

The Home Office is studying a new disaster warning system which could ring thousands of homes simultaneously in a major emergency.

Computer engineers at BT

have come up with a hi-tech replacement for the old civil defence air raid sirens in use since the Second World War. The proposed system, controlled from a central terminal, would alert householders in any affected areas with a recorded alert and advice message. It could be used in the case of floods. factory explosions or radioactive leaks from nuclear power stations

If approved, BT's Public Warning and Information (By Telephone) System would cost about £1.2m for each county hall to install.

£4m payout for dinner ladies

Some 1,500 dinner ladies are set to share £4m in an out-ofcourt-settlement of an equal pay dispute. The women, formerly employed by the now defunct Cleveland County Council, will receive payouts ranging between £600 and £5,400.

Their claims - comparing their wages with those of gardeners and refuse collectors who carned up to 40 per cent more – were lodged 18 months ago at industrial tribunals. *Barrie Clement*

Train driver charged with manslaughter

The driver of a train that collided with an empty passenger service near Watford Junction station was charged yesterday with manslaughter and endangering the safety of

passengers... Peter Afford, 56, from Bushey, Hertfordshire, a driver employed by North London Railways, has been bailed to appear at Watford Magistrates Court on 4 April One woman died and more than 70 people were injured in the collision on 8 August last year. Transport police said they had carried out an inquiry into the collision, and after consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service had decided to bring charges.

Flu 'epidemic' downgraded

New influenza figures suggest "unusual activity" and some regional epidemics but no national epidemic of flu or flulike illness, according to the latest surveillance figures.

The Royal College of General Practitioners' monitoring unit in Birmingham says there are now 230 cases per 100,000 of the population. The previous week's figure for Christmas and New Year was 122 per100,000 - but this was artificially low because GP surgeries were closed for the holiday.

Dr Douglas Fleming, director of the unit, said the current rate was "within the range of usual winter activity". A flu epidemic has recently been redefined as more than 400 per 100,000 cases per population; above 200 per100,000 is considered "unusual activity". Liz Hunt

موانا بو

Balloonists in new attempt

A Swiss-Belgian team of balloonists is preparing to launch late today from Chateau-d'Oex, near Gstaad in Switzerland, in an attempt to fly non-stop around the world - just days after Richard Branson, boss of the Virgin group, almost died in a similar attempt. 🔭

The two-strong team will fly in a balloon of the same design as that used by the Virgin team, though much smaller and lighter. Meanwhile Steve Fossett, an American millionaire stock trader, was waiting in St Louis. Missouri to make an attempt on the same record. Charles Arthur

Barclays renew libel claim

Millionaire press baron twins

David and Frederick Barclay are making another attempt to sue BBC Director General John Birt for libel in France. In July last year, a court in St Malo dismissed the reclusive brothers' claim for damages following a broadcast on BBC Radio Guernsey in October 1995 in which the Barclays claim they were falsely accused of corruption. Last summer, the court threw out their case in which the Barclays claimed £108,000 damages - on the grounds that it was unacceptable". The date fixed for the appeal decision

Schoolboy told

is 24 January. *Tim Finan*

to grow his hair A 12-year-old schoolboy has been isolated by teachers at Corpus Christi High School, Preston, because his hair is too short. Leon Carlisle has been told he will be separated from his cla

to work in a room alone until his hair grows to "a decent length". His father is fighting the ban and says his son's hair is merely neat and tidy.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCL Recruied paper made up at the raw material for UK new in the first half of 1996

Chocolate, batteries, drysuits: sponsors try to put a price on adventure

lan Burreli

For four days he suffered the most agonising solitude. Now the whole world wants to meet Tony Bullimore.

An agent has been instructed to preside over an auction for his astonishing story involving film companies, publishing houses and newspapers.

One Sunday newspaper was reputed to have made a £100,000 offer for an exclusive interview. American film agents promised Hollywood movies and marketing executives have identified opportunities for endorsement of everything from confectionery to sports equip-ment and the kind of drysuit that saved him from freezing to death. The loss of the Exide Challenger may turn its skipper into a millionaire.

The Berkshire-based sports management company Masters International was yesterday seeking to secure for Bullimore the first of a series of lucrative deals, for a newspaper exclusive.

Meanwhile, the confec-tionery firm Cadbury was yesterday trying to confirm that it was one of its chocolate brands that had sustained him while he was stranded in icy waters, 1,400 miles south of Australia. "If it was, we will want to talk to him." said a spokesman.

Exide Batteries, the South Wales-based arm of the American battery giant, was congratulating itself on a last- Lalel Bullimore: Free flights minute decision to sponsor Bul- offer from Virgin Atlantic

were being cranked up in Perth

for the return of the Australian

Navy with Tony Bullimore and Thierry Dubois, fears grew for

the Canadian yachtsman Ger-

ry Roufs, who also disappeared

43-year-old Roufs since mid-

night last Tuesday, Greenwich

Mean Time. No contact has

been possible by radio, the

Nothing has been heard from

in the Vendee Globe race.

Stuart Alexander

wide television, was renamed in the week before the roundthe-world race began. Phil Jones, deputy managing director, said he was hoping to ex-tend the company's relationship with the yachtsman.

Richard Branson, who himself escaped when his hot-air balloon made an emergency landing at the start of his attempt to go round the world this week, has offered to provide the yachtsman and his wife, Lalel, with free flights on his airline Virgin Atlantic.

The only obstacle in Bullimore's path appears to be the yachtsman himself. Despite his reputation in yachting circles as wheeler-dealer figure who



Search grows for missing boat

satellite position beacon has

sent no signal and there has been

Fellow competitor Isabelle

Autissier abandoned an effort to

search for him when she was ex-

hausted by the conditions, in-

was further hampered by a

Marc Thiercellin, Bertrand de

Broc and Hervé Laurent, had

been diverted but were not due

to be in the zone until late last

A further three competitors,

cluding near 80mph winds, and

damaged mainsail halyard.

While the party celebrations no emergency distress beacon.

money-making opportunities, the garrulous sailor was doing his best to give the story away

Having been on the phone to the BBC's Today programme within hours of his rescue, he was in talkative mood again ves-terday from the HMAS Adelaide, where he is being treated for mild hypothermia. The frigate is expected to reach Australia on Monday.

And he admitted how close

thinking in hours."

Brothers in arms: Tony Bullimore (right) embracing Chief Petty Officer Peter Wicker, who pulled him from the ocean after his ordeal, on board HMAS Adelaide yesterday Photograph: 4F

always has an eye open for

Bullimore, 56, revealed how he twice nearly left the safety of his cansized boat after wrongly believing he was about to be rescued. "I nearly dived out on a couple of occasions thinking there was a rescue vessel outside, but I was terrified because once I dived out I couldn't get

he had come to death. "I started asking myself 'Am I really preparing my grave? I really believe I was just on the brink. I got to the point where I was

Born in Southend-on-Sea, Bullimore helped his father, Bill, on market stalls in Romford, before setting up a wedding photography business at the age of 15. He then volun-

tered cargo ship, the Mass En-

mote for an air search.

teered to crew a yacht to South set up a business in Birmingham

nity until it burnt down. He then

Africa and later sailed to Jaselling bankrupt stock. maica where he met his wife. In the meantime he was ac-Returning to Bristol, he ran a quiring a growing reputation for nightelub which catered for the his sailing, sharing the Yachtscity's Afro-Caribbean commuman of the Year title in 1985.

life three times, and his latest about the tremendous cost of brush with death is thought to rescuing people who do foolhardy things. But at the end of have cost the rescue authorities as much as £5m. "I would agree the day, it was part of human nawith those questioning the cost," he said yesterday. "There lenges. "People walk to the ture to take on daredevil chal-

27 times. He has almost lost his is something a little absurd. South Pole, they go down in the seas, they go up as high as they can, they go sideways, whatever. It all these things were takon away it would be a little bit like the taming of mankind." Letters, page 13

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Is this Welsh princess the first British woman author?

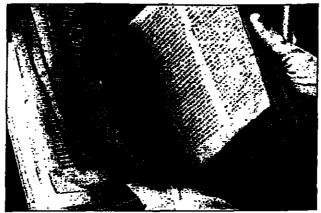
Roger Dobson

Britain's earliest known woman writer is identified as a 12th century Welsh princess who died fighting the Normans. Princess Gwenllian, daughter of the King of Gwynedd, is said to be the author of the Mabinogion, the 800-year-old collection of Celtic tales of romance and adventure, whose

unknown author has always

been thought to be a man. In his book to be published later this month, Dr Andrew Breeze argues that Gwenllian is the author of the Four Branches of the Mabinogi, the main tales of the Mabinogion, which tells of princes and princesses and daring deeds in a Celtic world

of heroism, chivalry and magic. Dr Breeze, a Celticist and English literature lecturer, says Gwenllian is one of the greatest writers. "It is sad to think that Welsh prose writers lies in an copy is the priceless White Book



The White Book of Rhydderch: The oldest copy of the Four Branches of the Mabinogion Photograph: Rob Stratton

unknown spot in the battlefield where she was killed," he said. The Four Branches of the Mabinogi (tales of youth) is considered to be the greatest work of Welsh literature and one of the finest surviving pieces the remains of the finest of of Celtic mythology. The oldest

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of Rhydderch, dated at 1300. which is in the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth. A second version, the Red Book of Hergest, dated 1375, is kept at Jesus College, Oxford, It contains seven other tales, some of which refer to King Arthur. Dr Breeze says that after

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Saga of the warrior princess

Princess Gwenllian, daughter of Gruffudd ap Cynan, King of Gwynedd, was born in 1098, when Wales was under attack by the Normans. Gwenllian's brother, Owen Gwynedd, took over from his father and became one of the great Welsh princes. Gwenklian married and lived in the valleys around Dinefwr, then dense with protective forests. Here she raised her four sons, Morgan, Maelgwn, Maredued and Rhys. On New Year's Day 1136 an attack was launched on the Normans and her husband left to join the battle. While he was away, the Norman-backed Lord of Kidwelly attacked, and Gwentlian led the defence, although her youngest son was only four. Gerald Cambrensis, writing later that century, said: "She marched like the Queen of the Amazons and a second Penthesileia leading her army." Gwenllian was killed on the battlefield, Maes Gwenllian, which has never been fully excavated. The naming her as author of The Four Branches of the Mabinogi is likely to renew interest in a woman whom some historians have compared to Boudicca.

analysing the original manu- Breeze details 11 key arguscript of the Four Branches of the ments in favour of the text be-Mabinogi, he has no doubt the author is Gwenllian.

"Until now everyone has always assumed they were written by a man," Dr Breeze says. "There have been suggestions it might have been a monk, but I do not accept that on the textual evidence I have collected. It is difficult to believe that a monk would have the concerns of a woman writer in matters like child-bearing. childlessness, wet-nursing, fos-tering and the upbringing of children, all of which figure in the Four Branches of the Mabinogi. The author is also very good at describing women who get men out of mess.

"The Four Branches can be Mediaeval Welsh Literature, Dr to see his arguments first."

ing written by Gwenilian, a mother of four who died leading an attack on the Normans near Kidwelly in 1136. He dates the authorship to 1128. Dr Rhiannon Ifans, a spe-

cialist in the Mabinogion at the University of Wales, Aberyst-wyth, said: "There is no known author and never has been. I have not seen the arguments and I keep an open mind because there are so many possibilities. This will be the first time a woman has been suggested." Dr Sioned Davies, senior lecturer in Welsh at the Uni-

versity of Wales, Cardiff, who is translating the Mabinogion, said: "I'd like to think it was a woman, but there is no firm een as that very rare thing, a evidence on authorship and a lot feminist fairy story in which the of prose of this period is anonyroles are reversed and it is mous. He is bringing up some resourceful princesses who very interesting points and I do rescue princes." In his book, not rule it out but I really need

Inquiry into fatal ambulance delay

An inquiry has been launched three hours at the Medway 👛 into why a dying man who was turned away from one hospital took six hours to arrive at another 50 miles away - only to die shortly afterwards.

Tony Usher, 60, died of heart failure and pneumonia on New Year's Eve after the ambulance transferring him from Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent - where there were no intensive care beds available - to the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate got into difficulties in the freezing

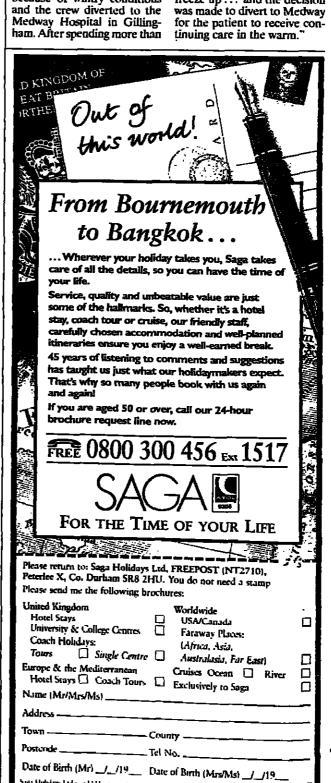
At 6.45am he was put in an ambulance to begin the journey to Margate. His wife, Georgina, was told she could not travel with him. During the 50-mile journey, the ambulance carrying Mr Usher had to stop because of wintry conditions

Hospital, he was transferred to Margate at 12.25pm. He was pronounced clinically dead shortly afterwards. Now his widow is demanding

to know why it took so long for her husband to arrive at the hospital, after she made the same journey in two hours. She said: "We knew my husband was dying but we would have liked him to die in dignity, with his family around him, not in an ambulance on his own."

A spokesman for Joyce Green Hospital said they had launched an inquiry into the

An Ambulance Service spokesman said: "En route to Margate hospital the bad conwasher on the ambulance to freeze up ... and the decision



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. Pubs co dry in r

Beer supplies to one of Britain's higgest pub chains face severe disruption after delivery worker, voted to take industrial detion over pay cuts of up to 25 per cent.

The Bass group, the company at the centre of the dispute.

owns some 4,000 pubs nationwide and delivers Grolsch, Carling Black Lanel, draught Bass, Calireys, Tennents and Lamot Pils to a total of between 25.000 and 30 (88) outlets.

Leaders of the 1,400 distribution workers voted by a 22 per cent majority to strike and by 85 per cent in favour of industrial action short of stoppages. An overtime ban and work to rule will begin next Friday, followed by 48-hour walk-outs on 23 and 24 January and o and 7 February.

Tradeteam, the company that distributes Bass products, will seek an injunction early next week alleging the disagreement does not constitute a lawful trade dispute. The distribution company, 49 per cent owned by

• THE INDEPENDENT

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Pils to a total of between 25,000 and 30,000 outlets. Leaders of the 1,400 distribution workers voted by a 72 per cent majority to strike and by 85 per cent in favour of industrial action short of stoppages. An overtime han and work to rule will begin next Friday, followed by 48-hour walkouts on 23 and 24 January and

6 and 7 February. Tradeteam, the company that distributes Bass products, will seek an injunction early next week alleging the disagreement does not constitute a lawful trade dispute. The distribution company, 49 per cent owned by

Ulster's law of the jungle puts big cats firing line David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

Church in

talks with

priests'

mistresses

by by the Bishops' Conference the women and children in-of England and Wales to talk to volved drew an extravagant

The Bishop's negotiations who is herself the mother of two

church."

Pubs could run

dry in pay row

the action

A rescue operation has been launched in an attempt to save animals whose lives have been placed at risk by the threatened closure of a safari park in Northern Ireland,

The park, which houses lions, tigers, chimpanzees and other animals, is struggling financial-ly following a disastrous summer when takings were drastically re-duced by the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire and the Drumcree marching season stand-off.

It is said that closure would mean most of the animals would have to be put down. since the lions are territorial and there is little demand from

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Catholic Church has

opened contacts with support

The Bishop of Portsmouth.

groups for priests' mistresses.

the Right Rev Christopher

Budd, has been asked formal-

the groups, and last week visit-

mark a considerable shift in the

attitude of the English Catholic

church towards openness, and

English and the Scottish hierarchies when it comes to deal-

ing with failures of celibacy.

Bishop Budd told BBC Ra-

dio 4's Today programme:

"Where you have relationships

which are clandestine and

somebody is still in priestly

ministry, the truth must come out and the priest concerned

must actually accept that truth

and move out of ministry and

do what he can to support either the woman or woman and

"After all, if a priest has fa-

thered a child by a woman in

some ways he is personally responsible and that means he

may have to leave ministry and earn sufficient to support the

The Bishop held out the pos-

sibility of church funds being used to support the children of

priests who stay in the ministry. A spokesman for the Bishops'

Conference said yesterday:

'Cases of this kind have always

arisen in the life of the Church,

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The Bass group, the compa-

child and the mother.

Barrie Clement

Labour Editor

25 per cent.

widens the gulf between the

ed one of them.

The Causeway safari park is in north Antrim, close to the Giant's Causeway and in one of Northern Ireland's more popular tourist areas. The num-ber of visitors to the area from the Irish Republic and elsewhere increased markedly following the 1994 IRA ceasefire.

The park employs three fulltime staff together with around 40 workers during the summer season. Its future was placed in question earlier this week with a Customs and Excise High Court action for the non-payment of VAT. The Official Receiver is now involved. The park's director Jim Garvin said: "The animals

"Most, though unfortunate-

ly not all, have been and are re-

handled, having regard to the

best interests of those involved.

The admission that not all

such relationships had been

handled in the best interests of

laugh from one of the women

who has met Bishop Budd, and

The woman, who did not

wish to be named, said: "A lot

of the damage is clearly already done. A lot of guys have continued in ministries knowing

that they have responsibilities

whether a woman who has had

an abortion, or the child has

been adopted. There is a

double-standard being adopted:

he is minstering and saying the Mass, yet leading a secret life. This has to be bad for the

It appears that the policy for

dealing with these cases varies

from diocese to diocese.

Catholic bishops have a con-

siderable degree of adminis-

A member of the Sunflower

group, one of those to which

Bishop Budd has been talking,

said: "In some dioceses, the

priest may be encouraged to go

into a rehabilitation as if he was some kind of drug addict. Many

priests would be offered the

chance of going abroad - the relationship with the woman re-

mains secret, even though she

could be in the Church, and even in orders herself. But the first responsibility should be to the woman."

Bass and 51 per cent by the National Freight Corporation is

confident that the court will ban

Although terms and condi-

tions have always been negotiated locally at more than 50

depots, the Transport and Gen-

eral Workers' Union is calling

for action in support of central

bargaining to prevent "attacks"

on their terms and conditions.

where draymen belong to the

GMB general union, will be dis-

missed on Monday if they

refuse to sign contracts reducing

Brian Revell, a T&G national

official, said Bass was profitable

and had no need to adopt such

a policy. He said the company

had already cut wages by £100

a week at one depot - a drop of

around 25 per cent - and was

attempting to impose a similar

it was competing with other dis-

tribution companies and that even after the wage cut, its em-

ployees would be among the top 25 per cent earners in the sector.

A Tradeteam spokesman said

pay level elsewhere.

Employees at one depot in the North-east, the only one

trative independence.

small children by a priest.

especially any children."

sponsibly and discreetly



cannot be moved from the park if it closes. Lions are territorial and most of the other animals have been born and raised in the park. Their natural hunting instincts have therefore gone.

We are hoping it will not have to close if some rescue package can be obtained. In the meantime the receivers have assured us that the animals will be looked after. For the past

three months we have been feeding the animals out of our own pockets. Our priorities are to protect them and the considerable seasonable employ-ment which the park provides."

His wife Coral added: "The lions are all in families, they're all in prides and groups, and you

couldn't split them up." Davy Leggett, who has been a keeper at the park for 16 years,

said: "The park is my livelihood but more importantly it is a hobby. The animals are like children to me, and if they had to be put down it would be like losing a relation."

The local council and a number of other organisations, together with the North Antrim MP, the Rev Ian Paisley, are now involved in discussions on ways of saving the park.

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Medical bills for Gulf war veterans

lan Burrell

Sick Gulf veterans are being asked to pay army doctors for details of their own medical

They have also been told that their GPs cannot be given details of the drugs and injections they were given because the information is "classified".

Other veterans have been been refused reimbursement of rail fares to army hospitals for Dr David Clark, the shadow

defence spokesman, said the "outrageous" treatment contradicted claims by Nicholas Soames, the defence minister, in Parliament that the sick veterans were now being looked

"I think the charging is outrageous. If the minister is saying he is going to play ball and be open with the veterans, he cannot then charge them for their own medical records.

"It is a further example of the Government's half-hearted attempt to address this problem. I still remain to be convinced that they are serious about it,"

Dr Clark said he would be raising the matter in Parliament. One sick veteran. Warrant Officer Ray Bristow, 38, said he had received no treatment other than counselling which he had arranged himself.

He was medically discharged from the Territorial Army after returning from the Gulf and developing symptoms, which in-clude memory loss, lethargy, hot sweats and insoninia.

Mr Bristow, who served as an army medic, said neither be nor his GP knew what drugs he had been given in the Gulf. In a letter seen by The Inde-pendent, army doctors have

asked him to pay a £10 fee plus
10p for each of the 37 pages of a week.

his medical record.

their cheques payable to the Ministry of Defence's "Imprest Account" at the Royal Defence

Medical College.
Although Mr Bristow has paid the money he does not expect to find out what drugs he

In his letter, Brigadier BC McDermott, of the Army Med-ical Directorate, said: "The drugs given during and before the Gulf War are classified. I do not have the authority to obtain this information, let alone pass it on to the patient." He adds: This likewise applies to any injections and immunisation that you may have received at that

Although the MoD has made assurances to the Commons defence select committee that such information is not classified, Mr Bristow is still none the

He said: "They asked for volunteers in the Gulf and I had a moral obligation to go because I had the training. I served with pride and dignity and feel terribly let down. Richie Turnbull, a Chester-

based veteran, has been refused reimbursement of his rail fares for treatment of his chronic condition at the Royal Brompton Hospital, in London. Mr Turnbull, 45, has emphy-

sema and chronic asthma and has been told by MoD doctors that his life expectancy is "seriously reduced. He has had to take nine different forms of medication a day

since returning from the Gulf. where he served with the RAF's nuclear, biological and chemical warfare defence unit. His hospital trips cost £130 because his condition is so serious he must be accompanied. Mr Turnbull, a father of three,

He said: "I feel like I have Veterans are told to make been told to go away and die."

said he could not afford to pay the fare on a war pension of £70



Putting Hollywood in the shade: the Winter Garden cinema will show the latest film by Lord Attenborough, seen below with Lady Attenborough



Dickie and Lady A invite you to a oremiere book a ferry

A small Scottish cinema will upstage Hollywood with a gala première this evening for the latest of Lord

Attenborough's films.

In Love and War, starring Sandra Bullock and Chris O'Donnell, two of Hollywood's hottest properties, is to have a special screening on the island of Bute before its official première in London on 12 February. Both Lord and Lady Attenborough, who have a home on the Scottish island, will attend the chemical the contract the contract

attend the showing at the 97-seat Rothesay's Winter Garden cinema. The première was arranged to raise funds for the island's Winter Garden Trust - set up to maintain and refurbish the historic Winter Garden - of which the filmmaker is patron.

The £25-per-head event will consist of two screenings of the film on either side of a gala dinner hosted by the Attenboroughs, at which Lord Attenborough will discuss the film and his career.

The film is the story of the clandestine romance between Ernest Hemingway when he was a young Red Cross stretcher bearer in northern Italy during the First World War and 26-year-old Agnes von Kurowsky, who nursed him back to health after a battlefield injury.

The film will be on general release in

Pinter's fears on bugging rejected

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Chief police officers and senior Labour politicians have rejected criticism of the Government-sponsored Police Bill by playwright Harold Pinter and

leading solicitors.

Mr Pinter protested that the
Bill had had "no discernible opposition from Labour, although it would legalise bugging of private property by the police. Labour's support for the Bill.

promoted by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was also criticised yesterday by solicitors' leaders in London because it could allow bugging of their offices to allow the police to eavesdrop on their clients. There had been "hardly a whimper from Her Majesty's

Opposition lest they be thought to be soft on crime," said Robert Roscoe, president, and other leading members of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association. "Until the general election we are in a very dangerous state of constitutional limbo, where the rights of the citizen are being sacrificed by both parties on the altar of political expediency," they said. However Alun Michael, Labour's home affairs

spokesman, yesterday stood by the Bill and denied that the party was not opposing it to avoid appearing soft on crime. He accused the opponents of getting the wrong end of the stick about the legislation.

"Most of the comment about the Bill has been based on a false premise." Mr Michael said. "This activity has been going on the authorisation of a chief constable and the guidelines from the Home Office for many years. The first guidelines were issued in 1977 and published in 1982. We think it is a step forward to have this activity put on a statutory basis for the first time," he added.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) joined with Labour in demanding the mea-sure to put bugging on a statutory footing.

Labour may seek safeguards for solicitors, but Acpo believes exemptions could provide a loophole-for criminals to operate from solicitors' offices.

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Colin Brown Chief Bolitical Collection

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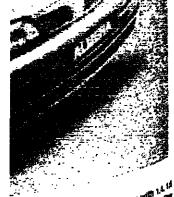
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Turkey hints at strike on Cypriot missiles

Alarm over the escalating crisis has spurred on mediation efforts, writes Tony Barber

The international crisis over pre-emptive military strike as long as the missile crisis re-Cyprus deepened yesterday as Turkey and its Turkish Cypriot clients piled more pressure on the Greek Cypriots not to deploy new Russian missiles in their sector of the island, "If they are deployed, we will do what is needed, and if that means they need to be hit, they will be hit." Turkey's Foreign Minister, Tansu Ciller, said in Ankara,

Blaming the Greek government for the crisis, she added: "Greece is the country which undoubtedly bears most responsibility for this aggressive policy."

The tough language made lit-tle impact either on Greece or on the Greek Cypriot-led goverament of Cyprus, which is adamant that it will go ahead with plans to buy the S-3(#) surface-to-air missile system. However, diplomats said there was still scope for a negotiated solution to the problem, as it could take many months for the missiles to arrive from Russia.

The first effort at international mediation will begin tomorrow, when a senior US official. Carey Cavanaugh, is due in Cyprus for talks with both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The US State Department. alarmed at the sudden rise in tensions on the divided island. has criticised the missile purchase but warned Turkey that a to-face negotiations could start

would be unacceptable.

If the missiles are installed, their 90-mile range would enable the Greek Cypriots to atairspace as well as that of Cyprus. The Turks are hinting at various military countermeasures, ranging from the destruction of the missile launch pads to a blockade of Cyprus.

In a statement distributed by the Turkish foreign ministry ves-terday, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denkiash, mentioned another option when he threatened to take over Varosha, a disputed area that has been scaled off since Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus. Most proper-ty in Varosha, which lies just south of the Turkish-held resort of Famagusta, is owned by Greek Cypriots.

The confrontation over the missiles has crupted at the start of a year that was supposed to see the launch of a concerted international effort to settle the Cyprus dispute. The US. Britain, other European Union countries and the United Nations were all hoping to see direct talks this spring between Mr Denktash and the Greek Cypriot leader. President Glafcos Clerides.

The prospects for such talks have not completely collapsed, but it is hard to see how face-

mains unresolved. Mr Clerides has not met Mr Denktash since 1994 and says there is no point in arranging another meeting tack Turkish aircraft in Turkey's unless his rival is prepared to make substantive compromises.

Even before the missiles crisis, the political and military elimate on Cyprus did not appear to favour a diplomatic breakthrough. In the worst violence since 1974, five people - four Greek Cypriots and one Turkish Cypriot - were killed last year in clashes along the UN buffer zone dividing the two sectors.

The missiles deal with Russia represents the Cyprus government's first serious attempt at building a credible air defence system after 22 years of Turkish superiority in the air. The government has not disclosed how many missiles it is buying, but they are part of a steady defence build-up that has been closely co-ordinated with Greece.



Flashpoint: The buffer zone in Cyprus watched over by the UN, which has pressed Greece and Turkey to conduct direct talks Photograph: Graham Trott/Katz

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HENUMBER of homeless families in the UK has almost doubled in the last fifteen years. Shelter believes much more decisive action is needed.

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Bomb blasts deal severe blow to Hebron talks

An island divided

GREEK SIDE

The Office Sol

Patrick Cockburn

in the aftermath of two bomb explosions in Tel Aviv overnight Israel and the Palestinian leadership tried yesterday to reduce the political impact of the attack - the first since March - on the already faltering talks about the Israeli redeployment of its troops on the West Bank.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, promised to wage war against the ter-rorists and said that, if they were found to have come from areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, then it would not be "business as usual". Freih Abu Meddein, the Palestinian Minister of Justice, said: "I don't think Palestinians were behind these explosions because such attacks serve only

Netanyahu. Despite Mr Netanyahu's harsh words he has continued talks with Dennis Ross, the United States peace envoy. But the effect of two pipe bombs, each containing half a kilo of an explosive mix of lemon, nitric acid and acetone, which seriously injured nobody when they blew up in a south Tel Aviv red light district, shows how little it takes to plunge relations be-tween Israel and the Palestini-

ans into renewed crisis. Nobody has yet claimed re-sponsibility for the bombs, which police at first thought might be the result of a criminal feud, but the most likely Palestinian faction to be behind them is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Based in Damascus, the group has carried out sporadic killings of Israeli settlers over the last year.

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Israeli police sealed off Jerusalem from the West Bank vesterday as 80,000 Palestinians prayed in and around al-Aqsa mosque on the first day of the Ramadan fast. Traffic in the city came to a halt because of security measures and Palestinian worshippers had to leave their identity cards in boxes before they entered the mosque.

In his sermon, broadcast live to Muslims around the world, Sheikh Hamed Beitawi, a leading figure in Hamas, the Islamic militant group, sharply attacked Israel, saying: "Israel is beating the drums of war and aggression against Muslims and Islam."

In the Palestinian town of Nablus vesterday Hamas held a memorial rally for Yahyah Ayyash, the Palestinian bomb maker who was blown up by a booby-trapped mobile phone in Gaza on 5 January last year. It was in revenge for his assassi-nation that Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out four suicide bomb attacks in February and March last year which killed 63 people and led to the victory of Mr Netanyahu and his rightwing government in the election in May.

Hamas is unlikely to have carried out this week's homb attack in Tel Aviv because its local leadership is reported to have promised Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, that it has suspended its hombing cam-paign. Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas spokesman, said last week that his organisation would not retaliate after the shooting of seven Palestinians in Hebron by an Israeli settler because so many of its members were in prison and the movement had been "disarmed" by the Palestinian Authority.

Negotiations between Mr Arafat and Israel remain deadlocked over the time scale for further Israeli withdrawals under the Oslo accords. The Palestinians want Israel to pull out of all Palestinian villages by September this year, while Mr Netanyahu wants to delay the withdrawal for two years. Mr Arafat has rejected a US compromise proposal that Israeli troops leave in mid-1998, Terms for Israel's partial withdrawal from Hebron are no longer in

Shelter National Opinion Survey on Homelessness

Please help us make this the widest ever survey of attitudes to homelessness. Your contribution will be much appreciated, and your answers treated in the strictest confidence. Please complete and return by January 22nd 1997.

Q1. Are you aged:

18-24 [] 25-34 [] 35-44 [] 45-54 🗀 55-64 🗀 65-74 🗆 75+ 🗆

Q2. Do you:

own your own home or have a mortgage? rent privately? rent from a Housing Association or local authority? live in someone else's home? other

Q3. Do you share your home with:

Yes 🗆 No 🗅 children? partner/husband/ wife or anyone else Yes ☐ No ☐ related to you? Someone not related Yes ☐ No ☐ to you?

Q4. Have you ever been homeless or at serious risk of losing your home yourself (through a tenancy ending, not being able to afford the rent or mortgage, break up of relationship, or other reason)?

Yes I. J No 🗆

Q5. Do you know anyone else who is either homeless or at serious risk of losing their home in such a way?

At risk of homelessness Yes 🗆 No 🛘 Actually homeless

Q6. Bad housing can have serious long-term consequences. Please show how important you view these problems as being (tick one box only for each problem; 1 being the most

Children doing badly at school 🗆 💆 🗇 People suffering asthma, bronchitis and other serious diseases People becoming more dependent on social services \Box \Box \Box

Q7. Do you agree or disagree that homelessness has a bad effect on the following?

The families and individuals concerned Agree
Disagree Don't know Local communities Agree Disagree Don't know 🗆 Society as a whole Agree 🗆 Disagree 🗆 Don't know 🗇 The economy Agree Disagree Don't know

Q8. Do you think politicians are at present sufficiently concerned about the plight of homeless people?

Don't know □

Q9. Would you be willing to write a letter to an MP which might help to get homeless people

> Don't know □ No 🗀

Q10. Would you be willing to make a donation to Shelter to help homeless people?

No 🗆 (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) _Postcode:_____

Telephone No:_____

Thank you for your time. If you would like to make a donation, please return your cheque, made out to 'Shelter', with this survey. We suggest £15, but any

amount you can give will be greatly appreciated. Here is my gift of: £15 🗀

Please return this whole survey to us, Shelter, FREEPOST, Room 206, 88 Old Street, London EC1B 1ND.

Shelter

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All money raised will go towards Shelter's campaigning and vital services. ercial organisations. From time to time however, we may send your name to mmunications, please tick this box 🗍

The ortolan stirs up trouble behind a white napkin

John Lichfield Paris

This is the story of a small bird, the last supper of a dying president - and the in-creasingly bizarre pronouncements of a

remote and unpopular prime minister.
It concerns, above all, a rare sub-species of bunting, called the ortolan, which has the misfortune to taste, if fattened and cooked in the right way, like a mixture of truffles and pâte de foie gras.

Ortolans are, by Gascon tradition, eat-

ritual manner, they are part delicacy, part
macho and, recently, an act of southister of France since records began. In an western regional defiance of interfering Paris bureaucrats and Brussels Eurocrats.

ing, selling and eating of ortolans has been a contravention (fifth class) of the French Rural Code, punishable (technically) by a stiff fine. The chief effect of the decree has been enormously to increase the price of ortolans, which can now fetch up to £35 each on the black market.

interview with Elle magazine, given as part of a campaign to seem less aloof and egg-Since 1987, by European Union directive and reluctant French decree, the hunt-ortolans is that it is forbidden to hunt and sell them but you can still find them in all

Mr Juppé, presumably attempting to sound like a man of the soil, managed to sound like an élitist snob who did not let the law interfere with his pleasures. Anien whole and still aflame – beaks, wings, feathers, legs, innards and all. Served in this

This fact was remarked upon recently by Alain Juppé, a Gascon by birth, Mayor of wildlife, was indignant. The League for the mal welfare groups were furious. Brigitte

Protection of Birds protested to the ing a charred, but entire ortolan. "Those European Commission.

A few days later, extracts were published from a new book on the final months of President François Mitterrand, also a son of the gastronomically inventive south-west. The author, Georges-Marc Benamou, revealed that at a New Year's Eve supper in the region Mitterrand consumed, inter alia, 30 oysters and two ortolans.

After grabbing the last of 12 birds, the dying president disappeared for a second time behind the large, white napkin, which is ritually placed over the head of anyone about to indulge in the horrific act of eat-

who had aiready been through the ordeal once, looked at each other in astonishment," wrote Mr Benamou. The table listened in embarrassment as the former president masticated the little bird to a paste behind the napkin, in the approved manner, before swallowing it. Then Mitterrand lay back in his chair, his face beaming in

ecstasy". Eight days later he died.
These revelations have unleashed a flurry of ortolan stories in the French press. Only the bird protection league remains unamused. Allain Bougrain-Dubourg. the league's president, claimed that up to

150,000 ortolans a year were captured and eaten during their migration through France. Mr Bougrain-Dubourg said the government had not yet made the capture of ortolans unequivocally illegal. The hunting lobby retorted that ortolans had been hunted since Roman times; that no more than 40,000 were taken each year; and this amounted to less than 2 per cent of the European population.

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years ago

A cartoon in the satirical newspaper Le Canard Enchaine gave Mitterrand the posthumous last word on the controversy. So what's the fuss?" says a ghostly, but portly, outline of the Socialist President. There can also be leftist ortolans."

Milosevic relies on grey market to keep afloat

Andrew Gumbel Belgrade

Apart from the street demonstrations, the pressure of the international community, the growing divisions among his own supporters and the general embarrassment at being caught cheating at the ballot box, there is another reason why President Slobodan Milosevic needs to resolve the political crisis racking Serbia as quickly as possible: the country is running out of money.

The economy has lurched

from disaster to disaster since the beginning of the Balkan wars in 1991, weathering hyper-inflation, international isolation and the establishment of a system which has concentrated wealth in the hands of the chosen few while leaving more than half the country on or below the poverty line.

For a long time the Serbian people seemed remarkably resilient to such hardships, but the new wave of anti-government feeling has made them far less tolerant. In the past few weeks, the government has dug deep into its pockets to catch up with pensions arrears, cut electricity prices and keep the riot police happy. These things require hard currency, and hard currency is one thing the Serbian least not officially.

The country's trade deficit for 1996 is estimated at \$2.2bn (£1.3bn), while official reserves deposited at the Yugoslav National Bank are no more than \$300m. Nobody knows exactly how the country is making up the shortfall, but it is almost certainly via the semi-legal or illegal web of financial transactions, offshore banking arrangements and secret funding the government has built up over the past few years.
"It is impossible that the

trade deficit is being financed by legal sources," says Mladjan Dinkic, an economics professor at Belgrade University and author of a critique of the Milosevic system, entitled The Economics of Destruction. One way the government manages to raise funds, he believes, is by squeezing it out of the people.

In the past few days, the Yugoslav dinar has yo-yoed dramatically in street trade, wavering from 3.8 to the German mark up to five and then down again to 4.2 - a sure sign, according to Professor Dinkic, of government manipulation.

In effect, the state-controlled commercial banks deny cash to their customers, forcing them to sell hard currency from their savings to street traders, who are

also controlled by the state. The more they sell, the weaker the dinar becomes. Then, after a few days, the banks loosen their credit squeeze and the dinar strengthens. The dealers sell the hard currency they have bought and make a tidy profit, which

they pass on to the government. The process is illegal, Professor Dinkic says, because it is an issue of new money that entirely bypasses the central bank and requires an increase in the banks' debt exposure well be-yond the established limit. But the government has used the tactic several times in the past two years, at the risk of reigniting the hyper inflation that raged through Serbia in 1992-93.

By now, such "grey issues" of

new money are not enough to keep the ship afloat. Other covert sources of hard currency probably include profits from the black market in cigarettes, and company profits ploughed into Yugosiav-controlled offshore banks run by confidents of Mr Milosevic.

If Mr Milosevic stays in power and fails to change his policies radically, his resources are likely to dwindle fast. He can try to unfreeze Serbia and Mon-tenegro's share of former Yugoslavia's assets held in Basie. But time is against him - exactly how much time, nobody knows. | dreds of oppositon supporters



Symmetry in white: An employee shovelling snow from the steps leading to the Belvedere pavilion of the Saxonian state vineyards at Wackerbarth Castle in Radebeul, near Dresden yesterday after a fresh snowfalls covered the terraced gardens of the baroque compound

Protesters storm Bulgarian assembly

Adrian Bridge

Dozens of anti-government protesters broke into the building housing Bulgaria's parliament yesterday during a protest to demand early parliamentary elections. Police tried to block the protesters' way with tables inside the building, and used tear gas to try to disperse hun-

who had surrounded the parliament in a human chain.

Their protest came after the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) refused to vote on a "salvation declaration proposed by the opposition Union of De-mocratic Forces (UDF) that called for an early national poll. But parliament began an ex-

trordinary session to discuss the opposition's declaration and creasing numbers each day.

voting started on the proposal. The opposition says the BSP has failed to tackle the country's economic crisis and lacks support

to form a government. While demonstrators in Serbia have now taken to the streets for more than 50 days in succession, their counterparts in Bulgaria only began their pro-tests last week, drawing ever inby events in Belgrade, hope their protests will gather a similar momentum and are trying to draw on similarities in the demonstrators' cause. "We protest against one and the same discredited Communist regimes." said UDF leader. Ivan Kostov.

Although both Bulgaria and Serbia are ruled by ex-Communist Socialist parties, there mandate to run.

UDF leaders, in part inspired are important differences in their protests. Whereas the Serbian demonstrators seek a reversal of the government's cancellation of opposition local election victories, the Bulgarians are trying to oust a gov-ernment which, while un-popular, was legitimately elected to power in December 1994 - and which still has two years of its





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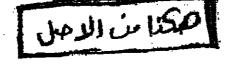
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Patten embroiled in Hong Kong lying row

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

A scandal engulfing the Hong Kong government deepened yesterday after allegations that officials, from Governor Chris Patten down, lied about the circumstances in which Lawrence Leung, head of the immigration department, left office last year.

It questions Mr Patten's claim to be leading an honest administration and the integrity of leading officials, who said Mr Leung was not dismissed but left for personal reasons.

He denied this yesterday

when he appeared before a legislators' inquiry and said he was told the government "no longer trusted him"; he was given the choice of resigning or being dismissed. He also confirmed he was the subject of

means and that he maintained unusually close ties with Chi-

His testimony before the committee, which faced weeks of stonewalling by officials, united all shades of opinion in fury against the administration. Allen Lee, leader of the Liber-al Party, said that if the government had been found lying to the people in any other country, it would be toppled. It now seems likely the committee will take the unprecedented step of summoning the

Governor to explain himself. Yesterday Mr Leung said he was harassed over a three-year period but had no idea why he was being treated this way nor stressed that he was cleared of corruption allegations. However, other allegations have a six-month corruption investible been aired, stating that he se-gation for living beyond his cretly supplied information to ments for Hong Kong. This

the Chinese government about Chinese dissidents and dis-closed secret details of who had been given British passports under the British scheme which allows Hong Kong residents to remain in the colony but gives the option of an escape-hatch if the situation deteriorates

under Chinese rule. There were also allegations about Mr Leung's department allowing a flood of Chinese immigrants to come into Hong Kong. None of the claims has been substantiated.

Mr Leung went to some lengths to boast of his good connections with Chinese officials. Asked to give an account of what he did after being diswhy he was forced to resign. He missed, he omitted to say that within hours he met Chen Zuo'er, a Chinese officials responsible for negotiating with

came to light after a legislator rushed into the chamber, say-ing a member of the public had called to say Mr Leung had been spotted with Mr Chen in a coffee-shop the day he was fired. Mr Leung confirmed this, saying he told Mr Chen he was "sorry, I can't co-operate with you any more". He added: "I had to tell him some of my feelings. I can't say I didn't give him the impression that I am being persecuted." Mr Leung also disclosed that he held regular meetings with Chinese officials. such as Mr Chen, "at which my work was reviewed and how to

improve it" was discussed. Last night Lam Woonkwong. Secretary for the Civil Service, admitted that Mr Leung was forced to resign but said it "was his choice". He said the government could not have disclosed this previously because of confidentiality rules.

significant shorts

diplomat may police in South be tried in US India offensive

President Eduard Shevardnadze said he was prepared to waive the immunity of a Georgian diplomat involved in a car crash in Washington in which an American, Joviane Waltrick, 16, died. He also said Georgy Makharadze should stay in the US until an inquiry was completed "unless a different agreement between the two governments is reached". Reuter – Tbilisi

Yeltsin to be off for three weeks

Boris Yeltsin's absentee presidency is to continue at least another three weeks because of his pneumonia and seems certain to delay the tackling of economic and social problems. His physician, Sergei Mironov, said he didn t dare speak of a breakthrough yet". Phil Reeves - Moscow

Striker's fiery protest

A South Korean worker set himself on fire in protest at a new labour law after a court issued arrest warrants for union leaders. The man had 30-per-cent burns but was not critical. Reuter - Seoul

Hoxha's widow scents freedom

Nexhmije Hoxha, 76. widow of the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha, left jail after serving five years for embezzling state cash. Reuter – Tirana

Death-crash Maoists kill 16

The Maoist People's War Group killed 16 people in an attack on a police station in south India. Two squads of guerrillas raided the station in Karakagudem, Andhra Pradesh, and exchanged gunfire with police for more than half an hour. Reuter - Hyderabad

UK and Spain to fight drugs

Britain and Spain were determined to defeat drug-trafficking, particularly of cocaine and hashish, Tom Sackville, a Home Office Minister, said after meeting his Spanish counterpart, Ricardo Marti Fluxa. Elizabeth Nash - Madrid

Mobutu has more surgery

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, who has prostate cancer, underwent minor surgery in Monaco a day after returning to his French Riviera villa following a brief visit to his country.

Israeli army's gay legacy

A court ordered the Israeli

army to recognise a gay man as the spouse of a deceased colonel and extend him the same benefits as military widows, including a pension. The appeals committee decided it would recognise Adir Steiner as an army widower and grant him the according rights," a court spokesman said.

Reuter — Jerusalem

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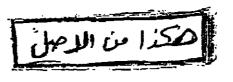
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In the temples of Hollywood, they like to look after the stars of Scientology

A constellation of Hollywood stars and leading producers and directors sign a joint letter defending a religious group which has frequently been derided as a cult and pinning ac-cusations of Nazism on modern Puzo and Aaron Spelling, it ex-ple I sent it to agreed." souls called Thetans. The ene-my of Thetans are Engrans. Germany and the reaction in America is, shall we say, mut-

ed. It barely registers, in fact. That – the absence of surprise and debate in the United States - is almost more remarkable than the act itself. Is the American media intimidated by this group's fearsome reputation explained that he was acting on for taking out lawsuits or is what a conviction that Scientologists happened here simply not considered especially unusual?

We are talking, of course, about the full-page advertise-International Herald Tribune lambasting the German government for its intolerance of a number of my friends, in adthe Church of Scientology. dition to a copy of this letter, Signed by such figures as Dustin and asked if they would sign it.

The sect of the 'Thetans' has acquired a kind of respectability in the US, says David Usborne

plicitly evoked the Nazi atrocities against the Jews six decades ago and the Holocaust.

The letter's author was Bertram Fields, a well-known lawyer to the stars. A Jew, he is not a Scientologist and nor are the 33 other signatories. He has were a persecuted minority in Germany who needed protec-

to do something about this," he said. "I sent a detailed letter to

Scientology would seem like a risky cause for public figures to become associated with. Founded by the American science fiction writer, L Ron Hubbard (LRH to church members) in the Fifties, the church has soffered always from the perception of outsiders that it is both batty in its beliefs and manipulative and dangerous in its recruiting and use of members'

The doctrine was laid out in Hubbard's 1950 book, Dianetics. The church promises those who join that it will "clear" their spirbard taught his followers that

my of Thetans are Engrams, which can be purged by audit-ing. An device called the E-meand Shirley Maclaine.

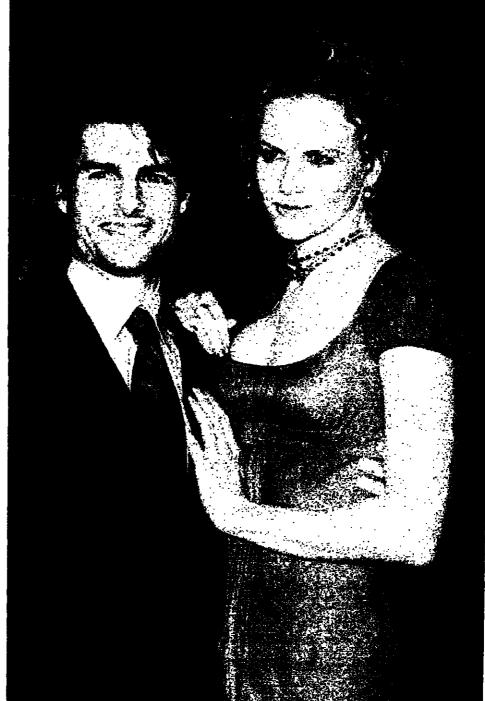
Scientologists have come under public assault in several countries other than Germany. notably in France, Canada and the US. The sect's standing in America in recent years, however, has recovered somewhat. In part this is because of its sucon drug abuse and graffiti.

It is in Hollywood itself, however, that the church has undoubtedly scored biggest. In the studios of La-La Land, Scientology has become almost trendy. It does not hurt, of

are the likes of Tom Cruise, his wife, Nicole Kidman and the other star du jour, John Travolta. Others said either to support the church or to be full members of it are Demi Moore, Priscilla Presley, Kirstie Alley

Some Germans boycotted ter measures your Engram level Tom Cruise's last blockbuster, Mission: Impossible, because of his beliefs. Mr Cruise is a mighty property, however, whom everyone in the industry needs to be seen to be supporting. And there is Mr Tra-volta. He has publicly attributed his return to success to his membership of the Church of Scientology

Helmut Kohl may fulminate and sensible thinkers in Europe may be aghast. The friends of Mr Fields - or friends, rather, of Mr Cruise and Mr Travolta - are not likely to be harbour-



Disciples: Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are among Hollywood's leading Scientologists

Angry Germany points to the past

Germans of all political persuasions and religious beliefs united yesterday to rebut the siur that their country was conducting a Nazi-style persecution of

Scientologists.
"It is disgraceful and irresponsible to draw such historical parallels which are completely out of touch with reality," said Michel Friedman, a board member of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. "It's totally off the mark. Today we have a democracy and a state based on the rule of law. Then it was a dictatorship." The "open letter" from 34 leading

American entertainers, published as an advertisement in the International Herald Tribune, drew fire from opposition and government alike. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, accused Scientologists of "distorting history".

Rudolf Scharping, the leader of the largest opposition group, the Social De-



True evil: Germans are outraged at the comparison made with the Nazis

Germany with Hitler's fascist rule." The commentators agreed that the letter, addressed to Chancelior Helmut Kohl, was in exceptionally bad taste. "They picked the highest address in mocrats, said: "This letter is not ac- Bonn and the lowest point in German ceptable, especially because of the history," wrote the daily Die Welt. "The

attack against the Federal Republic." The republic will survive, but the Church of Scientology's days in Ger-Stoiber, the Prime Minister of Bavaria, promised yesterday to "go after this organisation" with renewed vigour. candalous comparison of today's result is the nastiest public Bavaria has already banned members

ing profession, a measure which the conplement nation-wide. Scientologists, believed to number about 30,000 in Germany, are also excluded from all major parties and several trade organisa-

These measures are already the most repressive in Europe, but the govern-ment has mooted further restrictions which would effectively drive the sect underground. There are proposals to place the Church of Scientology under observation, to be watched by an office which keeps track of all extremist

This kind of vigilance is indeed a legacy of the Nazi era, but not in the way that the Hollywood stars understand. Under the Federal Republic's constitution, all organisations which aim to subvert nocracy are proscribed.

To Germans, the Scientologists' mindending techniques and their babit of radiating their propaganda through prominent personalities smacks of

Making a mighty avalanche out of a snow flurry

men glance nervously and constantly at the heavens, when local newscasters adopt a tone suggesting that a few dozen Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles are at that moment headed towards the capital of the free world, and when the populace strips supermarket shelves bare in an attempt to avoid Armageddon. Washington, in other words, is about to receive its first snow of

After days of advance publicity, the trau-matic event occurred on Thursday, closing schools across the region, allowing federal workers to take the day off, and sweeping all other news aside. Now you might

this sort of thing. Exactly a year ago, the Blizzard of 96 struck, dumping two feet of snow and paralysing the city for a week. That was a truly amazing event, of which our grandchildren will rightly speak in awe. But despite the best efforts of Mayor Marion Barry, and the virtual absence in the bankrupt District of Columbia of a single functioning snow plough, we survived. This time, however, everyone knew in advance it wouldn't be more than two inches. But why let facts get in the way of a media-

generated panic? What makes the fuss doubly absurd is that unlike its British equivalent, Ameri-

can weather is often genuinely exciting. Here there is no need to ponder the difference lovingly drawn by British weathercasters between "sunshine but some scattered showers", and "showers with a few sunny intervals". Last weekend in DC. T-shirts were the order of the hour as the temperature hit a record 23C. Four days later we were 28 degrees cooler. This is a land of climatic extremes, of hurricanes, tornados, droughts, dustbowls, and Biblical floods. Take the last two weeks out West.

Great swaines of California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state have been designated disaster areas after once-in-acentury flooding which caused \$2bn (£1.1bn) of damage in California alone. They even had to close the casinos in Reno, Nevada. That is serious.

Out on the northern plains a blast of Arctic air has reduced the temperature in Bismarck, North Dakota, to around -22C. With 30mph winds, the wind chill reading is -60C. But DC's weather forecasters don't men-

hype the petty inconvenience closer to home. Their advice veers from the bossy to the fatuous. Do drive carefully, wear warmer clothes, allow extra time to get to work. But such statements of the obvious pale beside the pearls dispensed by another of their number. If you go out in the car, he counselled, take emergency supplies, including water, biscuits and tinned food. All this in Metro Washington, one of the most affluent and thickly populated areas in the country, where you're never more than 100 yards from a Volvo station wagon.

And the hysteria will doubtless continue. America being America, safety is

year, DC has installed a computerised monitoring system that tracks pavement temperatures across the city. No less comforting was news that in the Maryland suburbs, 350 workers spread 56,000 tonnes of salt, while their opposite numbers in northern Virginia had spread a combination of salt and liquid calcium chloride on 13,000 lane-miles of highway by 6am. When you're stuck in the usual commuting traffic jam, such numbers have a wonderfully soothing, hypnotic effect. Who knows, they might even help us over a Russian nuclear attack.

Rupert Cornwell

We think it's time you went away

Hotel breaks: 2 nights for the price of 1

he Independent and the Independent on Sunday would like to invite you to take a hotel break and enjoy two nights for the price of one. Simply pay for one night's bed and breakfast and you will get the next night, in-cluding breakfast, free. Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin

All the participating hotels are members of the Minotel consortium and many will allow you to enjoy a longer stay on the same basis; pay for two nights and stay for four, for example. You can check this with your chosen hotel when you make your initial reservation.

There are more than 80 Minotel hotels participating in this offer, all of which are located in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. All the hotels offer top-class comfort and pride themselves on providing a personal service that many larger establishments cannot match.

A list of the participating Minotel hotels will be printed in tomorrow's Independent on Sunday and again in Monday's Independent.

How to Qualify

To qualify for your 2 for 1 break, you must collect four differently numbered tokens (including at least one from the Independent on Sunday). We are printing nine tokens in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday from Saturday 11 until Sunday 19 January. Then attach them to one of the vouchers we are printing in The Independent on Tuesday 14 January and Saturday 18 January and in the Independent on Sunday on 19 January (a confirmation booking form will also be published on these dates). When you have four tokens and a voucher, simply follow the booking procedure detailed below. If you would like to take more than one 2 for 1 break, just collect four tokens and one voucher for each separate occasion that you wish to go. Today we print Token 1; Token 2 will be printed in tomorrow's Independent on Sun-

Booking Procedure

 All bookings must be made by telephone direct with each individual hotel. Callers must identify themselves as "Independent 2 for I voucher holders" as some hotels may have standard or superior rooms available at normal rates when their allocation of 2 for 1

2. All bookings must be pre-paid and reservations can be confirmed over the telephone by credit card holders at most hotels.

3. Voucher holders wishing to pay by other methods can make a provisional booking by phone which the hotel will keep open for 48 hours pending receipt of the confirmation booking form and payment which will be acknowledged by the hotel on the day it is received. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement within seven days, you are advised to contact the hotel.

Vouchers must be surrendered on arrival at the hotel and can be used on one occasion only.

5. Vouchers are valid from 11 January to 30 September 1997.





nsuite rooms, costs from E79 for a double or twin

oom for one night. This er of an AA rosette.

SINDEPENDENT * THE INDEPENDENT

Terms and Conditions

1. To participate in our 2 for 1 offer you must collect 4 differently numbered tokens including one from the Independent on Sunday and attach them to a voucher. If you would like to take more then one 2 for 1 break, just collect four tokens and one voucher for each

collect four tokens and one voucher for each separate occasion that you wish to go.

2. The voucher may be redeemed at any participating Minotel hotel (as listed in the Independent on Sunday, 12 January, and The Independent, 13 January) for one free night's bed and breakfast for two people in a standard twin or double room when the first night's bed and breakfast for two peoples in a standard twin or double room when the first night's bed and breakfast is now numbers and bed and breakfast is pre-purchased at the price

3. Some hotels, at the proprietor's discretion, will accept the voucher for longer stays on the same basis, so you can stay for 4 nights for the price of 2 for example. Please check with your chosen hotel when making your book-

4. The voucher does not cover payment for any other meals or service that may be requested by the holder and cannot be used with any other offer, saving or discount that may be available at the hotel. 5. No bookings will be accepted for Bank hol-

iday periods. 6. Bookings for January, February, March and April cannot be made more than 6 weeks in advance. Bookings for May and September cannot be made more than 4 weeks in ad-

vance. Bookings for June, July and August cannot be made more than 7 days in advance. 7. Vouchers are valid from 11 January to 30 September 1997.

at the hotel and can be used on one occasion prior to the anticipated date of arrival at the hotel will render the voucher invalid and the

holder liable for payment in full for each night booked, including those previously offered

10. All bookings made under this promotion are subject to availability and to the selected hotel's own period of availability and terms and conditions, except where those conditions may differ from these in which case these conditions shall prevail. II. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are

11. Protectives of tone is and vocation not acceptable.

12. One child, under the age of 12 years at the time of booking and sharing a room with two adults will be accommodated free of charge but all meak, including breakfast, will be chargeable.

13. The descriptions and prices contained in

this offer have been supplied by participating hotels. While every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy prior to publication, no responsibility can be taken by Newspaper ng plc. Charterhouse Promotions or Minotel for any error, omissions or changes that may take place afterwards without no



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ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

Tired of playing the waiting game

hy are we waiting? It is now an estab-lished tradition for an opposition leader to call, twice a week, for an immediate general election. We think Tony Blair's continuation of this ritual is tiresome. But it occurs to us, at the end of the first week of the long election campaign, to ask the Prime Minister why he thinks there should not be a general election now. We doubt that he can give us one good reason. He might claim that he has a five-year mandate, which has not yet expired. But last November's Queen's Speech confirmed that his is a government that has run out of things to do. His real reasons for hanging on are less elevated. Most importantly, per-

haps, he is waiting for something to turn up.

The parallels between John Major and Mr
Micawber are instructive. The Conservatives
purport to believe in Mr Micawber's simple formula for achieving happiness: that income should exceed outgoings - if only by "ought and sixpence". But, as the national debt has doubled, they are reduced, like Mr Micawber, to hoping for a windfall. The cause of this sorry state is, as both Mr Major and Mr Micawber have said,

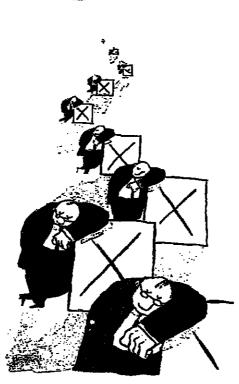
"circumstances beyond my individual control". In the end, something did turn up for Mr Micawber, because he is found in the closing pages of David Copperfield, relieved of his debts, as a much-esteemed colonial magistrate in Australia. Here the helpfulness of the literary analogy ends. Does this mean Mr Major will be saved by 8 million Halifax customers, grateful that, for them at least, something has turned up – in the form of an average £1,290 hand-out? Or does it mean, perhaps, that Mr Major will end his career as cultural attaché to Tasmania?

It is an intriguing conundrum. Meanwhile, the Tory game plan is to drag it out to the bitter end. If nothing turns up, the hope is that, with the passage of time, more and more people will feel better off. But it is hard to see how Mr Major will get the thanks for the Halifax's bonanza, or any other dividend. All the evidence suggests a radical disconnection between real personal disposable income and government popularity - a link which had been one of the iron laws of British politics. It was broken by a combination of the Tories' breach of trust on taxes and the pound's devaluation out of the ERM in 1992.

The third of Mr Major's calculations is that the longer he plays it, the more the shine comes off Tony Blair's toothy smile and the more difficult it becomes for Labour to travel light into the election. The Labour leader's strategy is already coming under pressure. The fact that the policies on taxing the rich and on electoral reform are not yet firmly nailed to the floor does not inspire confidence that Labour's vessel is

ready for the storms of an election campaign.

Mr Major is no doubt fighting the last war, and he remembers that the decisive shift in the 1992 election campaign was the growing expectation that Labour was going to win. Especially in the last week, this focused atten-



tion on Neil Kinnock as a potential prime min-ister and the policies of his potential government. There is much evidence that weakly attached voters then voted tactically against Labour, Given that most voters already expect a Labour government this time, Lord Saatchi and Brian Mawhinney hope to excite our fears of the unknown in the same way.

The Tory calculations have nothing to do with the national interest, although we welcome the Tory strategy to the extent that it is designed to flush out answers from Mr Blair. But we do not believe in spinning out the process for the sake of it: the eight questions to all parties, which we asked on Tuesday on behalf of the voters, could and should be answered now. Indeed, Mr Major has already answered one, saying he would never take Britain out of the European Union. and Mr Blair gets half a tick for in effect ruling out a 50p top rate of tax.

What's more, there must be serious doubts about whether the Tory strategy will work. If billboard advertising is our equivalent of American television commercials, then the Saatchis and the Tories have trounced Labour in the past, but this week's "New Labour, New Failure" campaign, with its red tear motif. seems unlikely to match past successes. There is an emotional artificiality about Dr Mawhinney's campaign which fails to hit home.

That is not to say Labour's response is up to much either, in this first week of what the political operatives call the 17-week "near-

term campaign". Who remembers its poster, only launched the other day: a picture of Mr

Major, asserting that he cannot be trusted on the economy after 22 tax rises? This is the sort of politics that gets us nowhere and puts people off. People don't want a long election campaign. The waiting is tiresome, and too many important things are on hold. The electorate are quite happy to pro attention for a few days and then do their civic duty, but three weeks is a bit much, let alone four months.

So why not call an election for three weeks' time? Then the new government will have a real chance to prepare for the June summit in Amsterdam, which will set the future course of the EU, and politics can move on from its

The lesson is that there is a strong case for fixed-term parliaments, something which Neil Kinnock advocated at the last election but on which Labour is - as on so many things - silent now. We accept that a definite election date would not shorten the pre-election razzamuzzle, but it would allow more certainty and would take away one unjustified advantage of incumbency - the right of the Prime Minister to decide when the country goes to the polls.

Meanwhile, we should ask Mr Major another question in addition to The Independent's Eight: what does he hope to achieve for the country rather than his party in the next four months?

LETTER from

those readers who

have decided to remain in the

country are already starting to

attack us for being either pathetically pro-Labour or

dumbly pro-Conservative. Since the letters are arriving at

a similar rate and since I have

been again informed by senior

people in all the parties that

The Independent is regarded as

"unfriendly", it seems to me

that we are probably - on bal-

ance, and not every day - about

Yet we are biased, of course

in editorials, on the comment

Those views, argued in detail in

numerous leaders, provide a

template against which we can

measure the parties' positions.

First, this paper will never

tell its readers how to vote -

that is a patronising, offensive

habit, which assumes that

newspaper readers are docile

mental serfs to be shooed into

one pen or another.

But second, I think we

should come to some kind of

collective conclusion by the

end of the campaign - how we

would use our vote if we had

one. That doesn't mean we

become a party paper, any

more than a thoughtful, inde-

pendent-minded voter who

finally plumps one way or

Not yet, though - despite a

another on polling day neces-

And then what?

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Shephard's pension changes mean mass exodus of teachers

Sir: It is disingenuous for Gillian Shephard ("Early teacher retirement is not a right", 9 January) to dress up her proposals on teacher pensions

simply as putting "early retirement back on a sensible footing". The timing of the changes is leading to an employer-encouraged mass exodus of over-50-year-olds who will leave teaching before '1 April 1997, while they are still entitled to a pension. The exodus will play havoc with the education of students and pupils, especially those facing examinations in June and July; and put extra financial pressure on the Teachers' Pension Scheme. when the purpose of the proposed changes is to reduce such pressure. SEB SCHMOLLER

Sir: Gillian Shephard argues that it is her duty to ensure that teachers enjoying good health and secure employment should continue in service until they are 60.

However, the Government's proposals would also deny a pension to teachers over 50 who are made compulsorily redundant. These days this is an increasingly likely and frightening prospect for many, since all further education colleges and many schools are independent institutions without the support and resources of a local education authority. Thirty years or so of hard labour in the classroom would then in all likelihood be followed by

> If she wishes to avoid leaving a legacy of fear and bitterness in the profession. Mrs Shephard needs urgently to re-examine her proposals to eliminate such injustice. STEVEN TURNBULL Torquey, Devon

Sir: Gillian Shephard is right to observe that schools and colleges will not acknowledge all the costs of premature retirement schemes if costs are pooled rather than assigned to particular schools. But who

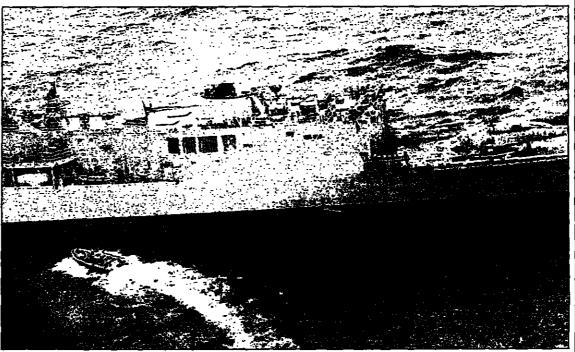
designed the current regime? Conservative governments did so. It is rather rich for a free market orientated politician to lament that schools and teachers acted in their own best interest within a pattern of incentives designed by Conservatives. The problem exists in the form that it does because of the spurious policy of treating educational institutions as though they were firms.
JOHN OLIVER London EC2

Sir. Over 40 years or more, teachers have paid 6 per cent of their salaries, and their employers more than that, into a "National" Pension Fund. In other words, their pension contributions have disappeared into the public purse, which, until recently, has paid out less than this in pensions, and thereby made

If those contributions had been invested on behalf of the teachers, seem unlikely that the present shortfall could have occurred. A private pension fund would be legally bound to invest, yet a government is not. GEOFF HINCHCLIFFE Thetford, Norfolk

Sir: May one ask what right Gillian Shepherd has to use the teachers' ailing pension fund to resource "front-line education"? JAMES WILSON unemployment and impoverishment. Banbury, Oxfordshire

> Sir: The Education Secretary expresses disbelief that four out of five teachers opt for retirement before the age of 60. The reasons. they say, cannot be genuine. Clearly they have not even considered the obvious: that the majority of teachers, tired of being told by everyone how second-rate they are, want to get out while they still have the odd shred of self-respect left. MALCOLM BROWN



A rescue dinghy carrying the British yachtsman Tony Bullimore to safety on board the Australian navy frigate HMAS 'Adelaide' on Thursday

Photograph: R Warning for those in needless peril on the sea

Sir: In view of the recent incidents involving single-handed sailors off the south-west coast of Australia it is time that the Marine Safety Agency took action to discourage such persons from putting to sea alone for long periods of time.

They clearly cannot comply with the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea, since they are unable to keep a proper look-out by sight and by hearing" at all times, as required by Rule 5. In addition, no prudent mariner would put themselves in the position of being unable to deal with emergencies on their own craft or to assist others because of lack of personnel. My own experience is that professional mariners do not regard such foolhardy expeditions in a favourable light. BARRY LEAHY Master Mariner

Sir: If a public subscription were opened to help to repay the Australian government for the costs incurred in the rescue of the British and French sailors, I believe there would be many like myself who would be glad to contribute. The story has been a heart-warming relief from the rest of the news - and the weather - in this awful grey January. MICHAEL ADAMS Budleigh Sulterion, Devon

Sir: It is fair to ask, you say (leading article, 8 January), whether expensive and commercialised ways of getting your kicks on sea, land and air should be subsidised. No doubt the yachtsmen will speak for themselves, but in the context of mountain rescue the question has been examined by the Scottish Affairs Committee of the House of Commons as recently as last year.

The RAF mountain rescue teams in Scotland, Wales and England are in place to recover crashed aircrew, and if they were prevented from rescuing civilian climbers they would still have to be in place, and would still have to get their weekly training. The civilian teams are self-financing, relying on contributions from their members and other mountaineers. and other fund-raising such as jumble sales. So where is the subsidy? FRANK CARD RAF Mountain Rescue Association

Sir: Of course we're all very pleased that Richard Branson and his crew are safe, but can somebody tell us what happened to the people down below when the six-tonne canister fell on them?

FABIAN ACKER London SE22

Indians invading and colonising

title within Indian land, which

occurred in the south of Brazil,

Guarani Indians from an area

demarcated as indigenous by the

federal authorities. Banished to

living in shacks by the roadside, the

Indians now face a potentially long

drawn-out battle in the courts in a

In Brazil all too often powerful

sarily becomes a party sup-porter from then on. But after years of finger-stabbing on every other issue, it seems a little odd to suddenly turn coy on

moment at the beginning of the week when it seemed as if we were going to have to come off the fence. Tony Blair was landowners and companies use the reported to have converted to courts to obtain or uphold dubious voting reform, which is a key Independent issue, and the main missing element of Labour reformism. How could constitutionally belongs to the state. One shocking example has just we pretend to be neutral where a cattle rancher claiming title between two sides, one of has forcibly evicted a community of which was radically reformist and pro-European and the other of which wasn't? A nervous moment, with a slight

squirm of trousered buttock on

editorial chair-leather. Then 7 ith the election campaign in effect begun. Mr Blair denied it all.

> One of the most engaging complaints of the week arrived unsigned and without an address. It purported to be from Aaaeee!, or the Association for the Advancement of American English in European Culture.

The pith of the communication runs thus: "Hi there, Congratulations, you're the kinda person we would like to thank for all your help... Here's merely a few of our successes which YOU have made possible, just by saying: Guy, Movie. pages, and in cartoons. We are Smart. Railroad, Jerk. Vucabiased towards our own tion, Butt, Garbage, Trunk, agenda, which has grown with Hood, Sunup, Sundown, and the paper, and which is based on political reform, free markets and pro-Europeanism. crappy dead English of Milton. Elliot, Lawrence, Wolf.

> Since all the parties regard us as 'unfriendly', it seems to me that we are, on balance, probably about right

Speight, Wood and so many more will be dead and buried. Alert (smart) readers will have detected a note of irony, which may or may not relate to the misspellings of two of the Great Names. (And which

Wood, by the way?)
There are two things that need to be said about Americanish. The first is that it is very irritating, but the second is that it is, in some cases, irresistible. Language, like culture, is a struggle for survival between the strong and the weak, the centre and the periphery. It's a struggle which dialects and whole languages are constantly losing. The price we pay for speaking a successful world language (unlike, say, Dutch) is that it is constantly changed and eroded at home by how it is used elsewhere. Linguistically, there are many worse fates than that.

Andrew Marr

Quit the City for a high-pressure life

Sir: Hamish McRae's contributions to national debates are always worth a read. In today's article ("Tax on the rich that delivers few votes and less revenue", 10 January), however, he perpetuates the false assumption that working for a charity is less highpressured than a job in the City.

As a former investment banker who moved to the charity sector three years ago, I can assure you that the challenges faced by charity managers - increasing competition for funds, pressures for improved performance from donors and beneficiaries, anticipating the impact of the rapid changes in the sector's environment in the UK and overseas - lead to as many, if not more, sleepless nights as are suffered by those working in

financial services.

What is wholly different is the personal satisfaction that comes from seeing our efforts lead to real improvements in the lives of our beneficiaries rather than to increases in profits, market share or our own wage packet. NIGEL SAXBY-SOFFE Director of Finance and IT .- ctionaid London N19

Family tyrants

Sir: How can the family be a foundation of democracy, when parents are not elected? SIMON BINNEY

Tories to blame for the beggars' plight | Brazil: making ancestral lands secure

Sir: Tony Blair says that homelessness and begging on the streets are not to be tolerated; some commentators see this as an attack on the people who are begging (report, 2 January). Was I born in a golden age? For 35 years I lived in towns such as

Norwich, St Albans and Swindon without seeing a single beggar.
Begging was something which
happened in the Third World. Then
suddenly, within a year or two of the 1987 election, young people began begging on the streets. The effect was to inspire guilt, anger and a feeling that we could not be part of an inclusive prosperous society nor proud to be British.

Tory spokesmen wished us to believe that human nature was at fault (as though it had suddenly changed that year) and that the beggars were idle and feckless people: certainly it could not be connected with the changes in eligibility for the dole of vulnerable young people who moved away from their parents to seek their first job. These changes occurred against the backdrop of a Chancellor transferring money to wealthy and middle-income people in the form of

Through a boom, recession and recovery, the beggars have remained on our streets. The Tories won't change their welfare and housing policy to try to remove the problem. preferring to hold individual beggars responsible for their predicament. Will New Labour do differently? NICK WATTS Chippenham, Wilishire

Sir: I would heartily agree with Suzanne Moore's article on safer streets (8 January). We need a better, richer street life. Buskers are an important

ingredient - they do not need purging from our streets but should be encouraged to do better. The old buskers who worked the West End theatre queues of the 1950s were part of an honourable and richly inventive tradition with not a guitar among them. The man who made ladders out of rolled-up newspaper, climbing three storeys on a windless day; the bone and spoon man; the woman with the strident voice who sang "Mother McCree" in your ear until you paid her to go away; the three acrobats and a barrel-organ in Leicester Square; the old gent with the wind-up gramophone who did a tan-dance routine. All these, and many more, made street life entertaining, rich and enjoyable,

After all, whatever the police and the bureaucrats do, we shall never really be rid of them, nor can they be confined to tourist areas. The more they are purged the worse will be their performance. Let us encourage them to give us good entertainment. Fr MICHAEL DAY London E5

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are anable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

and the second s

Braintree.

their land.

Sir: Whilst it is true that the Brazilian government should "out more resources into ensuring that indigenous lands are respected" as advocated in the article "Tribes who won't see the forest for the sleaze" (4 January), the key solution is one of land ownership. Brazil remains the only country in Latin America which does not recognise indigenous peoples' right to own their land. If Indians in Brazil are ever going to live in security on their ancestral lands, recognition of communal title is the fundamental prerequisite.

In Peru, for example, many adigenous communities have acquired communal land title around their villages and are in control of their territory, this has greatly reduced numbers of non-

Free Ashmolean

London WC1

climate of intimidation.

STEPHEN CORRY

Director General

Survival

Sir: Despite having spent four Sir: The governor of Birmingham months in Oxford, Professor Larsen (letter, 7 January) has clearly not isited the Ashmolean Museum, otherwise he would have discovered that, despite what he claims, it is

free of charge to all visitors at all We have no current plans for introducing charges.
Professor CHRISTOPHER WHITE A J PEARSON Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

London SWI

Prison searches

prison had instructed his staff to search visitors on the same basis as prison staff, that is to say, periodically ("Anger at search exemption for prison chiefs".

7 January).
Although all visitors and staff are searched when entering high-security prisons, Birmingham does not fall into that category, and procedures vary according to security circumstances. Ann Widdecombe has visited more than 100 prisons while Prisons Minister, and is regularly searched. Director of Security and Programmes HM Prison Service

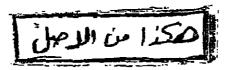
QUOTE UNQUOTE

No director is a god. If he's a god, or a tyrant or an autocrat, or a master then he is actually stopping the creative processes happening, because he limits where things may go - Sir Peter Hall As soon as paint starts flying around, I will probably forget what happened - Lisa Potts, teacher, 21, on her return to school six months after she battled to save pupils from a machete attacker I wouldn't go into space if you paid me. There is quite enough otherness here on our planet for me to get immersed in David Bowie, rock star. 50

He was such a gent to everybody that we couldn't get cross with him. He was dead straight about why he was mining: he needs the troney - Anne Scargill, ofter leading a protest against opencast mining to Chatsworth, Derbyshire, home of the Duke of Devonshire

I had no choice but to drop all pretence at restraint and courtesy. I determined that if I did not fight bare-knuckle, the pro-monarchy view would be crushed into submission - Frederick Forsyth. best-selling author, on the Carlton TV monarchy debate In politics you sometimes despair of having a sensible debate -

I think men believe what they see in the movies - that I am going to throw my head back and have an orgasm in two minutes. I have never done that. It is implausible - Sharon Stone, film star



Director

Ashmolean Museum

As old as yesterday's newspapers

After longer than anyone can really remember, two ancient institutions of the press -Peregrine Worsthorne and Bernard Levin-are hanging up their quills. Peter **Popham** looks at the passing of a way of life

sponge and small towel

teething ring
breastfeeding leaflet

400g block washing soap

feeding bowl and 2 spoons

All enclosed in a re-usable.

waterproof box.

on time to time the contents of the

Street ran with tears this week when the news that first Sir Peregrine_Worsthorne of the Sunday Telegraph, then Bernard Levin of The Times, were departing their ancient, hoary, legendary, prickly, abusive, provocative, preposterous, exhibitionistic, barnacle-encrusted, and not necessarily always extremely widely read columns.

Well they didn't actually the gutters, that is. Fleet Street (you may have noticed, or not) is no more. It is only a figure of speech, and a misleading one at that. So this week no community of hacks gathered at El Vino's with the perfect excuse for a few extra rounds. No gloating wakes were held. Gossip trundled around the town, but its bearers were probably sober, and the medium mostly telephonic.

The Times's editor, Peter Stothard, has finally heeded the chorus of voices which has been telling him for some time that Levin's column had gone off (though he "will continue to write elsewhere in The Times," we are assured). Worsthorne was brutally fired by Sunday son earlier this week. He got news of his sacking by letter – with a week's notice after 44 years on the *Telegraph* papers. It was the culmination of a long series of disagreements: Worsthorne allegedly vetoed Lawson's attempt to join the Beefsteak club, and was himself ejected from the board of The Spectator in 1995, when it was

edited by Lawson, after publicly

gutters of Fleet condemning an article in the magazine. Fleet Street, then, is dead,

and two of its most enduring monuments are no more. As journalists are wont to do, we conduct a rough head count of the poor old buffers still on side, tot up how much longer we ourselves can seriously expect to be smiled on, and mourn the passing of an era.

For anyone under 40 or even

50, the amazing thing about Worsthorne (73 now) and Levin (68) is how incredibly long ago they got started. I am 45, and Levin was already famous before I was out of short trousers. As "Taper" in The Spectator, he shot to stardom in the 1950s by practically inventing single-handedly the idea of a parliamentary report that was chock full of gags. He then moved to The Daily Mail and became its fierce, fiery, fearless theatre critic, in the days when Kenneth Tynan on The Observer and Harold Hobson on the Sunday Times had made the theatre review the

sexiest spot in the paper.
It was around this time, staying up daringly late one Satur-day night, that I first became aware of Bernard Levin's exisparticularly disgusting political wrong in a stand-up spot on the satirical show That Was the Week that Was. Perhaps this was the occasion when he called prime minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home a cretin - I forget. Anyway, that ephemeral moment was scorched onto the nation's brain pan when a man from the audience got up out of his seat, walked on to the set



It later emerged that he was the husband of an actress Levin had cruelly rubbished in one of his terrifying reviews. The assault, the man said, was his protest against corrupt theatre

That was Levin back then: becoming editor. the gadfly's gadfly. Into the rel-atively gentle, benign. backscratching world of London journalism of the 1950s, a clubbable place where satire was something by Juvenal you'd translated at school, and humour was of the whimsical Beachcomber variety, angry young Levin exploded, scattering vituperation in all directions: initially at practically anyone in power, subsequently at anyone else who got up his nose

- lawyers, judges, academics, animal rights campaigners, whoever. He introduced a new pleasure into the newspaper eader's life: vicarious cruelty. Peregrine Worsthorne was ing class. Yet in this very difalso firing on all cylinders by the ference there are points in

moved to the Telegraph in 1953 after working on the Glasgow Herald and The Times. He joined the Sunday Telegraph when it started up in 1961, as deputy editor - a position he held for 25 years, before briefly

intuitive to voke Worsthorne and Levin together in an article, despite their emergence at roughly the same time, because they are very different types. Levin was shrill, gratuitously aggressive -

one of the first Jews in post-war British journalism to fashion a persona - brilliant, prickly, which could be taken as a red anti-semites. Worsthorne, child of Belgian bankers on one side and English aristocrats on the other, by contrast presented himself as the last, defiant voice of the rul-

versity. Both were almost equally provocative, for totally different reasons.

Worsthorne's politics had a consistency to which Levin seems never to have aspired. In the days when one-nation Conservatism was the only type emisation and progress were the common cant of all the parties, Worsthorne was shockingly out of tune, lamenting the passing of the old days and railing at the new barbarism.

He was an entirely preposterous figure, like something out of an early Waugh novel or a Coward play. The only reason it worked was that behind the unacceptable rhetoric was a figure of intriguing weirdness, who for all his insistence on Olde England and its values hardly seemed English at all in many important respects: a fop, noted for his pink bow ties and red socks, his swept back hair

tears in public, whose Englishness often seemed a hilarious camp performance. By the early Sixties, both

these personae were firmly in place, firmly entrenched in the public mind. In the 35-odd years since then a great deal has - less Speakers Corner than anged. Newspapers, proprietors, technologies, trade unions, ideologies and the Berlin Wall have come and gone. Fleet Street itself, the vortex of British journalism for 200 years, has been turned over to bankers and the like. The whole context in which those voices, those images, that vituperative rhetoric came into existence has been blown away. Nothing of it remains. But Levin (established for many years now on The Times) and Worsthorne have remained, lonely, gesturing figures ranting

away on the blasted plain. The later Worsthorne is

later Levin. With the successive victories of Mrs Thatcher,

opposite.
So basking in the Thatcherite sunshine was not something that this soul of perversity could stand doing indefinitely. Latterly he began rumbling about the "bourgeois triumphalism" of the Eighties; more recently still (on 15 December 1996) he has gone much further, championing Kenneth Clarke to be the Tories next leader and this in the lions' den of Europhobia. But Worsthorne has always had a streak of reck-

ble and honest..." or "Australians are open and immediately friendly." Too often in Levin's recent articles there is the sensation of someone talking rather pointlessly to himself

In that respect Levin's fate is exemplary. Today all these people - Worsthorne in his perfect country village, Levin in London, the rest of us bent over our screens in office blocks dotted across the metropolis - we're all alone. More than any other department of journalism, column-writing is public speaking. It thrived in the era when journalists met and talked and drank. When that era ended, as the careers of Levin and Worsthorne demonstrate, it went into a long stagnation. Today it is ever more forced, more readily admired than the artificial, narcissistic.

Worsthorne's perennial views gradually became almost part of the consensus, and he wound up as a knight. But he has always been uncomfortable having too many people agreeing with him: an old friend recalls that he used to go into El Vino's in Fleet Street, stay long enough to gather the general consensus on the hot topic of the moment, then go away and write the diametrical

less courage: when Conrad Black took over as the Telegraph's proprietor, he wasted no time describing him in print as "domineering, verbose and discouragingly pious." Levin's progress, despite the huge fame he enjoys around the world, has been less sure. The ferocity that marked him out died long ago, and recent attempts to revive it have an air of desperation: in September, for example, he began a column with 109 consecutive adjective "worm-eaten, exhausted, dishonest" etc., etc - to describe the Government. More often though he is seen in his pipeand-slippers mode, uttering unexceptionable remarks such as "I have always admired Frank Field. His work is sensi-

one of the more depressing creations of Samuel Beckett.

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SEND A BABY BOX TO BOSNIA THIS WINTER FOR ONLY £30 Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone for winter. But for an impoverished mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child safe from infection, these basic essentials inside one of our baby hoxes would mean the world. It would also mean that someone cares - somewhere somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child. Children's Aid Direct has delivered baby boxes full of essential items directly into the hands of 33,000 mothers in Bosnia - many of whom will be living in war-damaged housing and in very basic conditions this winter. Please, if you possibly can, send a haby box to Bosnia this winter and help a mother keep her baby safe. Just call us on 0990 600610 or complete the coupon below. Feel free to send a message of support to a Bosnian mother - we'll put it in your haby box for you. What's inside? With love from a friend... 18 nappies (all 0990 600610 now to tell us how many baby baxes you would like to send, 200 nappy liners OR please complete and return this form. 6 safety pins Please send _____ baby box(es) at £30 each on my behalf. 3 pairs plastic baby pants enclase a cheque for £ _____ (total amount) made payable to Children's Aid Direct 100 baby wipes in a tub from my Viso Access Switch zinc and castor oil 3 mild baby soaps 500ml baby shampoo 250-300ml baby lotion

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ecstasy have resulted in oversensitivity on the part of many adults, as demonstrated by the recent Polo furore. Polo manufacturers were delighted when they came up with the idea of selling a limited edition of the discarded holes with the letters P, L or O on them. Having the appearance of small white pills, various teachers became alarmed and contacted poisons units round the country, with the result that these little sweets were put on a national database. This illustrates, yet again, the gulf that exists in the perception that grown-ups and younger people have of drues.

I have had a bash at most drugs and as a tecnager was told by someone about making tea out of cigarettes for asthmatics. They had benzedrine in them and gave you a good buzz. I mentioned it to a friend of mine who made some and consequently tried to jump out of a window. This fact was reported to my parents, who went absolutely bonkers and from that point on, I fear, suffered terrible visions of me lying in the gutter with a syringe sticking out of my arm. I personally knew this would never happen, but it's hard to

Recent tragedies involving unfortunately, education, not blanket prevention, is the only way forward.

> A study in New York has discovered that shopping is good for women's health. Dr Rex Metzier claimed that the sheer pleasure of making personal purchases does something positive for a woman's system and seems to give temporary immunity from ageing. So apparently shopabolics are often stronger and slimmer. The study showed that it was best to shop about 17 hours a week – especially for clothes.

This sounds like a right load of cobblers to me. Maybe Dr Rex is in cahoots with some of the big department stores. He also sounds like some doctor out of a Woody Allen film, sending his patients off on marathon spending sprees to care their middle-class ennui.

I'm sure most women don't have enough money to last 17 hours a week. Even if they did, I'd like to think that the vast majority couldn't bear to spend that amount of time indulging in such an empty pursuit. Still, anything to keep them on the streets.

The Tory MP Jerry Hayes seems to have been well and truly destroyed, whether the reports of his affair with a Commons researcher turn out

to be true or not. For if they are true, yet another "happily married man" will be revealed as something we never thought he was. Many people see this as the ultimate humiliation for Mr Hayes. Obviously they never saw him on the James Whale show.

As the Tories know, the problem with setting yourself up as a shining example for others to follow is that when you get caught out, that proverbial substance really hits the fan. So it was this week, when Turkish police allegedly found Mushum Gunduz, leader of a radical Islamic sect, in flagrante with a young girl. The woman maintains that Gunduz has used hundreds of girls as

This is a true case of having your cake and eating it; not to mention "don't do as I do, do as I say", As usual, it is the poor old women and the weak and

helpless that have to sit back and take the abuse while the powerful please themselves.

What a gloriously revealing bunfight the debate about the monarchy was on Tuesday night. Please remind me never to read a Frederick Forsyth novel again. What an unpleasant

Peter Stringfellow, (knock me down with a feather) a supporter of the monarchy, arguing ficrcely that it is good for tourism, and made the point that if the monarchy was abolished there would still be poverty. Of course there would, Pete. because money-grabbing businessmen like you would still exist. Royal Family first;

you next, mate. I reckon. I am not sure that the programme would be graced with the name "debate." It was more like Gladiators. with the expectation on my

part that at any moment, as another person with unpopular opinions was shouted down, the chant Another One Bites The Dust would strike up in the background. The heckling was of the usual substandard nature and the arguments were simplistic. A triumph of Sunesque trivia.

Scotland was the only republican area at the end of .. the night. Another temptation - along with the deep-fried Mars Bars - to move up there.

"Boys will be boys." This cliché is chucked about vhenever a good old bloke sets off on an adventure from which he might not return - a dangerous climb, a land speed record or indeed a round-theworld balloon flight.

In my book, the sort of feats to be admired are those of kindness, generosity and fairness. I'd have been a lot more impressed if Richard Branson had used the balloon money to increase his staff wages or something of that nature. Now the mission has failed and another load of money has dribbled down the drain. Popular opinion may be that it's his money and he can do what he wants with it. That doesn't stop some of us thinking it's a crime to chuck it away on what amounted to an almost instantaneous failure

keting will not save Charle Forget the polo matches, if flying the action man post They may be what maners Prince Charles as proof that I is man enough to be king. B they are not what the rest of t consider when reckoning up the balance sheet. What we remember is that when Prince 🐧 ne day – when I was a a teenager - I decided t have my personality tested. For weeks I had passed the odd-looking hookshop near Goodge Stree Tube station, on London's Tottenham Court Road. which advertised on-the-spot analysis. Perhaps it was the bridly illustrated sciencenction paperbacks in the window, or the insistent manner with which the man in the doorway invited

unfortunately), spiritual emptiness (also absent) and my longing for completeness (incomplete). Someone in the shop took a quick shufti. looked me up and down and bade me farewell. And thus ended my only brush with the Church o Scientology.
Had I been slightly more promising material, I would have been slowly drawn into sessions of self-exploration.
Gradually truths (as

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that put me off. And then, in a fit of self-confidence. I wen

interminable questionnaire

about holes in my life (none,

Gradually truths (as witnessed by Scientology's founder, L Ron Hubbard, sci-fi author and honorary Venusian) would have been revealed to me. I would have come to know how evil Lord Xenu filled the world with alien Engrams some 75 million years ago, how these

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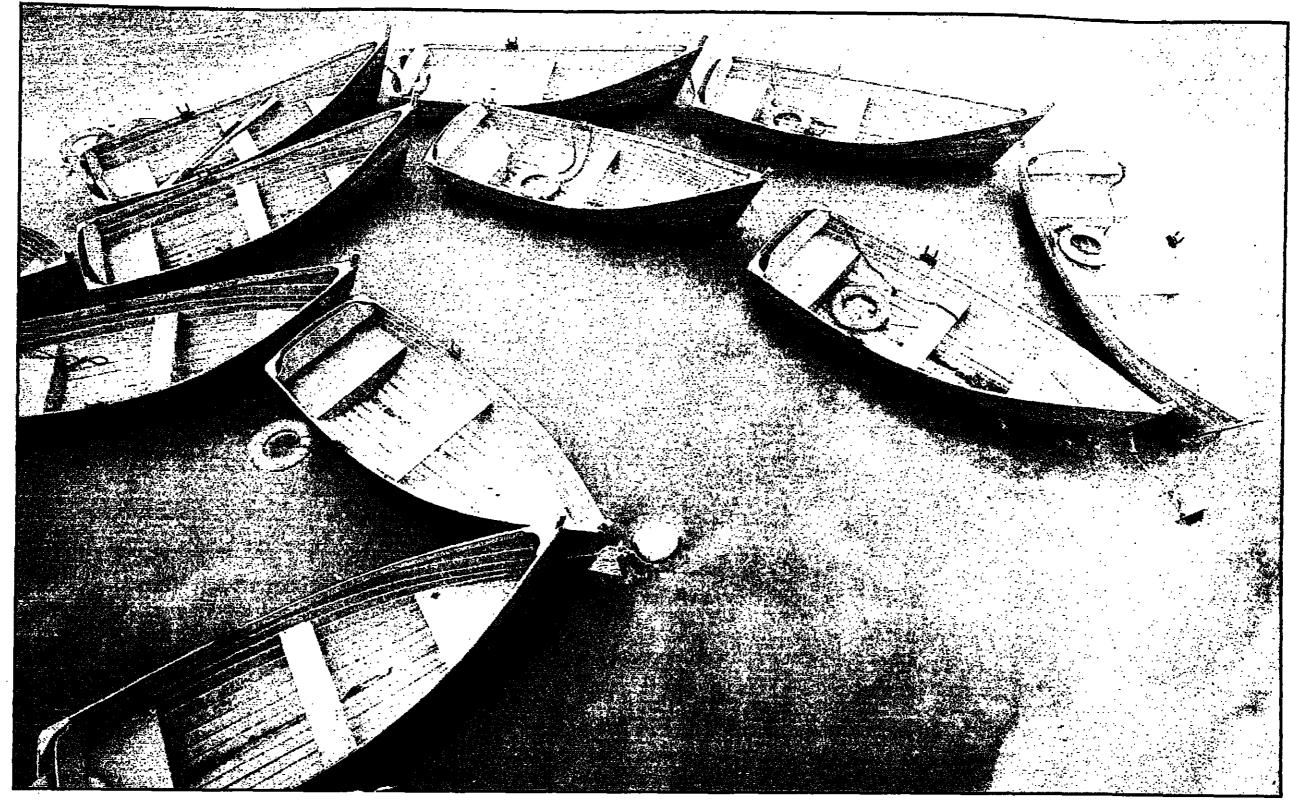


IMAGE OF THE WEEK Normally they bob around in carefree summer days loaded with be-shorted, shirt-sleeved sun-lovers. Now, as the country stays locked into the New Year - New Ice Age, the boats, on the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park, stay wedged by the ice into a frozen arc. Photograph by Tony Buckingham. Taken with a Canon EOS 50E 24mm lens using a Kodak multi-speed film. 1/60 seconds at F/11

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 1997

The narrator of Beryl Bainbridge's Every Man for Himself (published by Duckworth) is Morgan, the young nephew of the shipping line's owner, who sails on the Titanic's maiden voyage in April 1912. In this extract from the first chapter, he accompanies his friend Charlie Melchett on a trip around the new liner.

elchett was keen on visiting E deck. mostly on account of a broad alleyway, known to the crew by the name of Scotland Road after some street in Liverpool, which ran the length of the vessel.

He had visited the northern city as a child, he eagerly told me, on the occasion of a horse running in his grandfather's colours in the Grand National steeplechase. I did tell him, knowledgeable as I was in regards to plumbing in the steerage accommodation, that it was unlikely he would find the thoroughfare thronged

with race-horses, but he was adamant.
We duly descended by elevator and roamed up and down a tiled corridor intersected by iron staircases leading to working departments of indescribable dullness. Melchett, trying hard to remain animated, wilted.

"What is the point," he complained, "of giving names to places that bear no

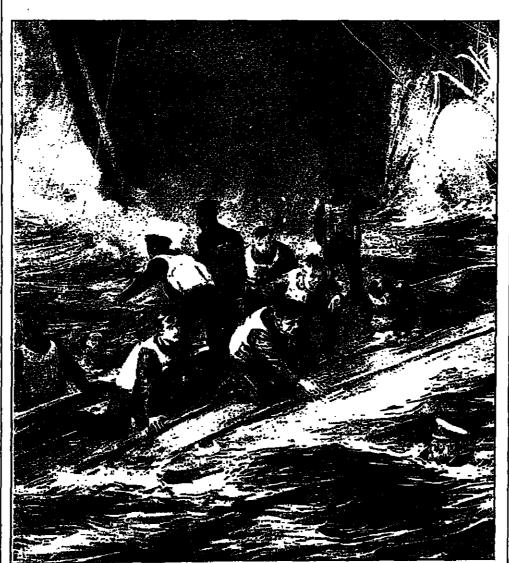
resemblance to the past?" "The point is," I stressed, "that they draw attention to the the origin of the reference. Think of Waterloo station." After which exchange we fortunately encountered a young seaman who was persuaded to conduct us over the lower decks. Reluctant at first, then swaved by the promise of a generous tip.

he led us below. Though stunted in growth, his eyes shone with intelligence. He said his name was Riley and his home town Liverpool, where he lived with his "Mam" and five siblings. Considerably bucked at the coincidence, Melchett boasted he knew the town quite well. "My grandfather, he said." owned a horse that finished second in the Grand National of 1901 ... I can't

for the life of me remember its name."
"Me Dad," replied Riley, "had a donkey "Me Dad," replied Kiley, "nad a donkey called Dickey-Sam that pulled a rag and bone cart." Melchett said that was interesting, and turned pink again. Apart from a certain casualness of manner Riley proved to be the best of guides, for though the English he spoke could have benefited from an interpreter his knowlbenefited from an interpreter his knowledge of the ship was profound and his appreciation infectious. On F deck, starboard side, beneath which the main engines were housed, he delivered a lecture on their capacity and capabilities. The vessel, I understood him to inform us, was powered by two four-cylinder.

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Every week we open this section with a picture to admire, to treasure. From today we will also offer words - spoken, declaimed, written as poetry or prose - which will in some way reflect an event or mood of the week. Today, an extract from the Whitbread Award-winning novel by Beryl Bainbridge



triple expansion, reciprocating steam engines. Each could deliver 15,000 horsepower at 75 revolutions, producing a speed of 21 knots. Aft of these, a lowpressure turbine recycled steam from the main engines to drive the three propellers. He was wrong in this last assumption, in that it was only the central propeller that was thus driven, but I held my tongue.

"There's also four 400 kilowatt steampowered generators," he said, "with dynamos capable of providing enough electricity to work the machinery control-

ling the winches, cranes, passenger and service lifts, heaters, cookers, water-tight doors, the internal telephone exchange and the Marconi wireless set to a range of 350 miles. It can go further at night," he concluded. "Though I'm buggered if I know why." Melchett, shamelessly taking advantage of his enthusiasm, pressed to be allowed a glimpse of such wonders. A glimpse was all we got; barely a minute after we reached G deck and Riley had dragged back the iron door of Number 1 engine room we were approached by an assistant engineer and ordered about our

business. Brief as the moment had been, we had nonetheless clearly seen the awesome monster rearing on splayed legs from the glittering avenue below, its gigantic head vibrating inside its steel helmet, its thunderous intestines of lubri-cated pistons and crank-shafts pounding

and pumping in perpetual motion. Riley was sent packing. I'm ashamed to say neither Melchett nor I put in a word for him, nor was there time to palm him his tip. Escorted by the engineer, we were returned by twists and turns and much tapping up of metal stairs to E deck, where, after sternly reminding us that unauthorised explorations of engine and boiler rooms were against company safety rules, he left us.

I could have told him who I was and put

him in his place but was loath to puncture his sense of self-importance, having had my own pricked on numerous occasions, and with more cause, by my Uncle Morgan.

Melchett and I remained silent while we continued our inspection of the ship. and when it was done and we had sunk into the leather armchairs in the foyer of A deck we still had no words.

It wasn't the lavish furnishings of the public rooms, the doors inlaid with mother of pearl, the panelled corridors of oak and maple, the shimmer of gilt and brass and cut glass that made us catch our breath, anymore than the twenty-one-light candelabra hung from the massive dome above the sweep of that imperial staircase.

We had spent our lives in splendid houses and grand hotels and for us there was nothing new under the sun, nothing that is, in the way of opulence; it was the sublime thermodynamics of the Titanic's marine engineering that took us by the throat. Dazzled, I was thinking that if the fate of man was connected to the order of the universe, and if one could equate the scientific workings of the engines with just such a reciprocal universe, why then, nothing could go wrong

I don't know what Melchett was thinking, beyond he was pale and his left knee was bouncing up and down as though in imitation of those connecting rods oscillating below the water line.



John Walsh meets... **Michael Flatley**

'Dance is about focusing. Focus focus focus' page 3

Nureyev: shedding light on darkness

TV documentary is too slanted says John Percival page 4

All across the nation...

Hippy, happy daze in San Francisco page 9

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Bump-starting a stalled pseudo-science Games People Play Pandora Melly explores an explorer's pastimes.

Modern discoveries are attracting new converts to the ancient art of phrenology

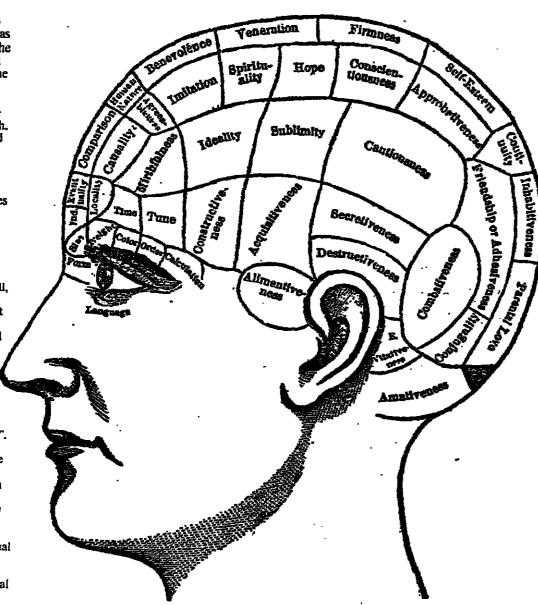
he discovery, earlier this week, that women's brains shrink during pregnancy has drawn attention again to the relationship between the physical characteristics of the brain and the psychological characteristics and capacities of its owner. Such questions were once the province of the old art of phrenology which, to judge by a quick search around the more dubious nooks of the Internet is making a bit of a comeback. Indeed, our by no megans exhaustive browse revealed more than 600 references to phrenology on the Web. For the benefit of the

phrenological neophyte, here is how it works:

The science of phrenology was developed in Austria in the late 18th century by Franz Joseph Gall, one of the founders of modern neurology. At a time when almost nothing was known about the functioning of the brain, Gall had the amazing insight that different regions of the brain were responsible for different faculties. He even identified the cerebral cortex as "the highest level of the brain and that the development of this area characterised mammals and man". Where he seems to have erred, however, was in his belief that the brain comprised many several distinct organs, each controlling a

separate aspect of personality.

As Douglas Adams fans will be pleased to hear, the full phrenological system identifies precisely 42 "moral and intellectual faculties" as Gall called them. Here's the official list: Amativeness, Conjugality, Parental Love, Friendship, Inhabitiveness, Continuity, Vitativeness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Alimentiveness, Acquisitiveness, Secretiveness, Cautiousness, Approbativeness, Self-Esteem, Firmness, Conscientiousness, Hope & Expectation: Spirituality, Veneration, Benevolence, Constructiveness, Ideality, Sublimity, Imitation, Mirthfulness, Individuality, Form, Size, Weight, Colour, Order, Calculation, Locality, Eventuality, Time. Tune, Language, Causality, Comparison, Human nature, Agreeableness.



Every one of those was identified with a specific site in the brain, and the assumption of phrenology was that superior development of any of the faculties would be revealed by the contours of the cranium.

So, having learnt where everything is. you have only to inspect people's heads in the proper manner to disover their innermost secrets. Here's how you start: Place the third finger of each hand upon the head, just at the top of the ears; let the lower side of the third finger be even with the upper part of the ear, that finger then rests upon Destructiveness. Then spread the second finger about one eighth of an inch from the other, and it will rest upon Secretiveness. Let the end of your longest finger come as far forward as the fore part of the ears, and they will then rest upon

these two organs. (From a mid-19th century manual on phrenology by Orson Squire Fowler and Lorenzo Niles Fowler.)

Even though its fundamental basis became increasingly undermined by psychological and neurological research, phrenology continued to be practised until the 1930s, by which time Americans could even have their head bumps read by an automatic electrical phrenology machine which printed out a report on ticker-tape.

Considering the continuing appeal of astrology, and the growth in academically doubtful methods of character assessment such as graphology, the almost complete demise of phrenology is perhaps surprising. It has, after all, only three major defects:

Firstly, there was never much evidence to support the view that the contours of the brain follow the bones of the skull as closely as the phrenologists would have liked. Secondly, in the brain, as in other organs, there is little evidence to correlate size with efficacy. And thirdly, Gall and his followers seem to have got their bumps in the wrong place. For example "Broca's area", now known to be. responsible for language, is nowhere near Gall's Language bump, but seems to lie somewhere between Constructiveness and Ideality.

So Phrenology is based on two false premises, which, even if they were correct, would be giving out quite the wrong results anyway.

There are, however, two good things about phrenology. The first, and best, is that it provides an excellent excuse for fondling the head of someone whom you would like to get to know better. After mastering palmistry in order to indulge in a little harmless hand-caressing, phrenology is the next logical

step for any shy chiromantic suitor to

For the less tender-hearted, however, we must mention the newly developed technique of "Phrenotherapy". The idea of this "bold new discipline", as its inventor Kevin Kelm describes it, is to improve people's personalities by rearranging their head bumps. With a mallet. Do not try this at home.

The prize of Terence Nolder's evening dress - in Scrabble green with sequinned silver letters - has been won by Mrs R Wade of Norwich.

For correctly deciphering our competition, the following win copies of TUT TUT, the Egyptian hieroglyphics

Next week, we shall begin to catch up with the answers and winners to our end-of-year chess, bridge, backgammon and True-or-False news items competitions

Michael Alexander, 76, explorer and writer

I've just been given an outrageous little book for Christmas about the games played by Surrealists. "How do you reconcile a love for women with a taste for sodomy?" That was a question put to Paul Eluard by Guy Tanguy, but there are some good limericks in there

I make up limericks about my friends. Listen to this one: "A dirty old vicar from Chester/laid hands on a choirgirl and blessed her/in order to test her/he pressed and caressed her/ 'til they came to arrest the molester." I have several friends who make

up limericks; an American girl in Paris, she's made up some quite good ones, and an Italian friend who's a diplomat. He writes them all down. You should see his book. he's got lots of them, he collects them, you see.

I can't remember exactly when I started writing them - far too long ago - but I have sessions with

friends at the Chelsea Arts Club. Here's another one: "There was a young girl from Ceylon/who locked herself up in the john/when they knocked down the door/she was flat on the floor/and they found she'd not been but she'd gone."

Edward Lear's not terribly good: he doesn't bother much with first and last lines. It's hetter to get some internal rhyming, then it's a minor art form. This one's my favourite: "There was a young man from Bengal/who went to a fancy dress ball/he thought he would risk it/and go as a biscuit/but a dog ate him up in the hall." Not one of mine, but I've always liked it. I can see it all happening, can't you? I'm afraid I've become a bit of a limerick bore. You know, rattle them off, and don't let the other man get his limerick in.

In case of failed inspiration "The Penguin Book of Limericks", edited by E O Parrott, is available from any good bookshop for £8.99.

Don't junk it ... use it Poaching eggs with tuna left-overs

Which would you rather have:

Two pastry cutters, one mousse ring, four muffin rings and an egg ring, or:

Two pastry cutters, one mousse ring, four muffin rings, an egg ring, a safety can opener, 1.395kg of tuna and £6.79?

The trick is to buy the tin-opener (a Culinaire Safety Can

Opener costing about £6 is needed for this job) then make the other kitchen items out of empty tuna tins (or any other suitably shaped tins with proper rims at the top and bottom). You just remove the tops and bottoms of the tins for your ready-made



pastry-cutters, egg rings, mousse rings and multin rings.
The budget above is based on prices quoted in a current "Chef's Choice" catalogue.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh



Henry VIII popped in for a game at the second Mary Rose Backgammon Tournament at the Hilton Hotel, Portsmouth last weekend. The prize, won by Nick Check of London, was this replica backgammon board, based on one recovered intact, complete with counters, from the wreck of the Mary Rose. The board was made by Chris Woolcott, King Henry's friend is Michael Crane of the British Isles Backgammon Association.

The Games Page is edited by William Hartston

Board games in general fall into five categories: there

New game of the week

are race games, war games, acquisition games. knowledge games and partnership games. Ludo, chess, Monopoly, Scrabble and bridge. Compatibility from Spear's (price £19.99), falls into the last category and is typical of the genre in that it provides a framework for

The rules are simple: a word is selected at random from the "topic cards", and each player must then select, from their pack of "Compatibility cards" a number of pictures they consider most appropriate to the topic. You score points if you turn out to have selected the same pictures as your partner.

So, for example, when the topic word was "elope", I picked cards depicting a sunset, a mobile phone, a globe of the world, and a card indicating the word "sex" - all of which, I thought, added up to a picture of a romantic moonlight flit - and a picture of a lion, for the obvious pun elope-elope. My partner, however, picked a couple in formal wedding attire, a man kissing

active than its colleague on

b7 (particularly when

17...dxe2? 18.Qxd6!) but

the illusion was exposed in

forceful style by Plaskett's

20...Rxf4! For the price of

a rook, Black reopens his

bishop's diagonal and gains

two monster pawns on d3

After this, White was

avoided the trap of 29.Bg5

Qxg5! 30.Qxg5 Rxh2 mate.

version of the same thing

threatened 30...Qd7, which

on the following move.

After 29...Ke8 Black

on the previous move

would have been met by

Of2+. White could have

forced Black to rethink by

instead played the hishop

to g5 immediately, letting

White: Colin McNab

Black: James Plaskett

70-0 Nbd7 24 Qxg2 e4

18 Bh5 Rxf5

19 Qg4 Raf8

20 Kh | Rxf4

21 exf4 Rxf4

22 Oh3 e3

23 Bg4 Bxg2

25 Be6+ Kf8

30 Bg5 Qxg5

31 Bc6+ KI8

32 Qg5 Rh3+

33 Kg2 Rh2

checkmate

with a queen sacrifice.

3 Bb2 e6

16 gxf5 d3

17 Rg2 e5

4 NB Nf6

always facing defeat. He

Black had to avoid

a woman's neck, a red rose, the word "happiness" and a baby. Ridiculous. The kissing couple are obviously perfectly happy. Why should they elope? Even if they did, the wedding would hardly be a bridal gown and dress coat affair. And the suggestion that a baby is already on the way is, I think, quite out of order.

picked the White House, a Skyscraper, a dingy-looking Italianate tenement building, a wooden framework of a new house, and a child's drawing of two girls outside their home. I could only think of the last bricklayer we employed, so picked a "Stop" sign (which he did whenever we left the house), a question mark, indicating our bemusement at his slow work-rate, a totally blank card (because he was never there) a mobile phone (which he seemed to be talking on whenever he did turn up) and the card saying "stress".

Score zero again. Still, what can one expect of a partner who does not even have the wit to think of a

Competition winners

Scrabble Silver Jubilee Competition

games from the British Museum: Hugh Walding (Newport, Isle of Wight); D O'Connor, (Preston, Lancs); Jane Marsters (New Malden, Surrey).

New Year Competitions:

which appeared in the 28 December edition.

Chess William Hartston

The best excitement at this year's Hastings was provided by the Challengers Tournament, which gives an opportunity for players to qualify for the invitation-only Premier tournament the following year. With 10 grandmasters, the field was almost as star-studded as

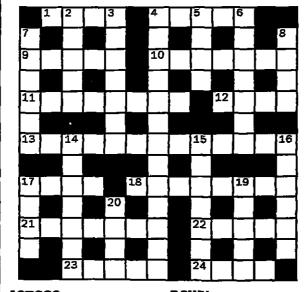
that of the top tournament. While the press were concentrating on the feats of 12-year-old Luke McShane, who so narrowly but fell into a prettier missed scoring his second norm towards a master title, the real thrills were in the battle for first place. First, James Plaskett romped into a clear lead. then he was beaten by Joe Gallagher, but in the last playing 30.Bc6+ (when Kd8 loses to Bg5) but two rounds, Igor Rausis of Latvia beat both of them to sprint into first place. He and Plaskett secured Black polish the game off qualification for next year's premier.

We gave one brilliant Plaskett win in Thursday's paper. Here's another one, equally spectacular and also ending in mate.

After Black's 1...b6 and White's 2.b3, much of the game becomes a battle to 5 e3 d5 6 Be2 Bd6 prove which is the stronger bishop: the one of b7 or that on b2. White's 15.g4 is 8 d4 0-0 9 Nbd2 Ne4 26 Bd5 e2 an attempt to open the g-10 Nxe4 dxe4 27 Rg1 g6 file and bring his rook to help the bishop's efforts in 11 Ne5 f5 28 Bc1 Rh4 12 Nxd7 Qd7 29 h3 Ke8 an attack against g7, but the whole plan seemed too 13 f4 Qe7 optimistic. 14 RE & 15 g4 cxd4

When 16.gxf5 was met by 16...d3! the bishop on b2 may have looked more

concise crossword No.3193 Saturday 1.1 January



ACROSS

- 1 Covetousness (4) Runs with long strides
- Arranges (5) 10 Jury finding (7) 11 Gathering (8) 12 Break (4) 13 Pocket items (13)
- few (8) 21 Composer (7) 22 Shrub (5)

24 Unhurried (4)

- 17 Domesticated (4) 18 Accessible to only a 23 Jargon (5)
- **DOWN**
- Tacks (5) Muslim veil (7) Road/rail intersection (5,8)
- Wine (4) Branch of knowledge Disconnect (6)
- Desist (4) Retribution (7) Bare-headed (7) 16 Obtain (6) 17 Legal wrong (4) 19 Wild West show (5)

20 Passport endorsement

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Ballast, 5 Raids (Balustrades), 8 Actor, 9 Willowy, 10 Spender, 11 Pasha, 12 Tiving, 14 Newark, 17 Major, 19 Unusual, 22 Lowdown, 23 Tenor, 24 Rules, 25 Thrusts, DOWN: 1 Brass, 2 Lottery, 3 Acrid, 4 Thwart, 5 Relapse, 6 Idols, 7 Skylark, 12 Tumbler, 13 Nervous, 15 Alumnus, 16 Punnet, 18 Jewel, 20 Utter, 21 Lords,

The answers to the Christmas Jumbo Crossword will appear next week

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all;	dealer South						
Nor	th						
♦ AJ87							
♥A743							
♦ 10 7							
♦ K42							
West	East						
◆K	10643						
V10652	۵O ک						
♦Q65	OAK943						
♣ 0J976	4 85						
Sou	ıth						
• C	952						
Ų ♥K	[]8						
10	82						
∳A	103						
71.	nal abas uuna aba						

This was the deal that won the prize for the best played hand in the 1996 Lederer Memorial Trophy. It was an unusual brilliancy, for declarer started off on the wrong foot but found a sparkling recovery.

After two passes, North opened One Club, East overcalled with One Diamond and South (Zia Mahmood) bid one Spade. Both West and North supported their partners" suits and, after making a try for game

Perplexity

Perplexity returns this week with a new, extra-large set of the popular "26 L of the A" (Letters of the alphabet) alphanumeric puzzles. All you have to do is work out what the letters stand for in the following:

1 A N of H 2FinaRG 3 B of P G T 4 Fon a H (ETT) 5 O S 6GaL

with Three Diamonds, Zia subsided when North could only bid Three Spades.

West led 0.5 and after winning with his king, East switched to ♣8. Declarer won in hand and slipped up when he led SQ to the king and ace. Next he took a successful finesse of ♥J and led a second trump. When West showed out, Zia muttered the Pakistani equivalent of "Tut, tut," and set out to recover.

He put in the seven from table and, after winning with the ten, East led another club to dummy's king. It looked as though declarer would end up a trick short, but two more rounds of trumps left West in trouble. He had to keep all his hearts and the winning club so had to discard ◊ 6. Zia cashed ♥K, dropping East's queen, and ran ♥8 successfully.

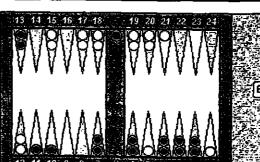
Finally declarer got off lead with a club. West won and led O and now it was East's problem. If he overtook, South's ♦ J would become a winner; if he left his partner on lead, the CA would be brought back to life.

7PFPaBinS 8 R on a C B 9 T of D L S

10 Ton Y F

When you have deciphered them, send your answers to: Perplexity, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, to reach us by 22 January. The first correct answer opened on that date will win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary.

Backgammon Chris Bray



Last week we introduced the concept of Woolsey's Law of Doubling (roughly, "If in doubt, double") Now let's look at a practical example. With a man on the bar you are on roll as Black in the above position. Should you double? Should White take or pass? I was in the box with a partner when this position

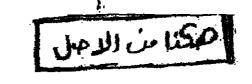
arose in a six-handed chouette at the Double Fives club (with six or more, it is common for the box to take a partner). We then discussed whether to double. Certainly this position is very volatile. By our next roll we could either have lost our market - reached a position where our opponents would immediately

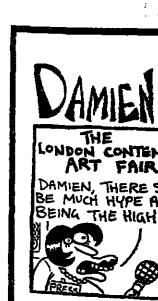
drop a double - or be in trouble ourselves. Consider, for example, the sequence 6.5 for Black followed by 6.5 for White, when it is White who will have lost their market In the start position nearly all numbers play well. 4s hit from the bar. 2s, 5s and 6s can be used to hit on

the 5-point. Is and 3s are not so good, but double 1 and double 3 both play well. If we hit one of White's men and they fail to enter we will definitely have lost our market. Now apply Woolsey's Law: if Black doubles should White take? Although we thought our opponents would take, White is going to lose a lot of gammons and that may just push the decision towards a drop. This meets Woolsey's key criterion: we're not totally sure it is a take - so we must double!

Double we did and White accepted the cube. We were rewarded for our aggression by rolling 4.4. This was played Bar/21*. 13/9/5*/1* putting three men on the bar. White stayed on the bar and we easily won a gammon. Later analysis using Ichyfish showed that with White owning the cube, Black wins only 51 per cent of the time but 70 per cent of those wins are gammons. This confirms the correct action in the initial position to be double/take.

TURN TO PAGE 25... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damion Hurts - the cartoon sage of artistic angst





TO FIND OUT WH

Whatever happened to...

In my week

Whizzing

past the

regular

the legs

of an

window at

intervals are

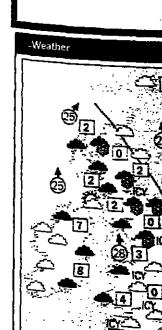
impossibly

dangling

from a

trapeze

slim woman



Card Card Down Dub Edia Exet Glas Gues Inve

:25pm to 8:11am

forer's pastimes. is at the Chelsea Arts Club

Dancing in the dark



NDENT LONG WEEKEN

s another one: There was girl from Ceylon, who d herself up in the

ound she'd not been but

ward Lear's not terribly

he doesn't bother much first and last lines, it's belle t some internal rhyming it's a minor art form. This

my favourite: There was a man from Bengal who we

tancy dress hall be thought

d risk it and go as a nt but a dog ate him up in the Not one of mine, but |10

merick in.

se it

vs liked n. I can see it all sening, can't you! I'm alrad become a bit of a limenck . You know, rattle them off don't let the other man ger

ise of failed inspiration. The

run Book of Limensky educ

O Parroll, is available from

stra-erotter (1925 ring), mouse

The hadget among is based on

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Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

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d by William Hartston

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Server and the server

200d bookshop for 18,00

John Walsh meets ...Michael Flatley

tell me," asked the world's fastest. richest and most egomaniacal dancer, "Can you waltz?"
"What?" said Michael

"Or tango? Or rumba? Or salsa?"

enquire if the most famous son of Terpsichore since Rudolf Nurvyev can do things ordinary mortals do, especially those that involve bandleaders, three-four rhythm, taffeta and sequins. But his reply was revealing. "I don't know if I can," he said. "Of course I can go out on the floor and have fun with the girls. But I don't imagine I'd be very good at most of those dances. I wouldn't say I'm very proficient. I rarely get up to dance anywhere but on stage. I'm sort of comfortable in my own little world."

Indeed he is. But then Mr Flatley's "little world" cur-States, London and Dublin and nets him about \$1m a month. The stage world he inhabits is a show called Lord of the Dance, the one he went off and devised after his acrimonious split from Riverdance in October 1995. It's a musicloosely based around Celtic mythology with some curious add-on effects deriving from Druidism, Greek-god attitudinising, biker chic and fascist iconography. It's with this vulgar but dynamic entertain- than a real person. ment that Flatley has set about conquering the world. For a with his detachment about his man who was unknown - and body: "I have to constantly whose chosen art form had no popular audience – in 1994, he

has, you could say, risen to the Everyone knows the story of Riverdance - how a sevenminute burst of Irish stepdancing in the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, devised by an RTE producer called Moya Doherty and choreographed by Flatley, won instant and total acclaim among an audience of 300 million worldwide, gave Irish dancing an unprecedented global cachet, became the bestselling video of all time (selling two million copies) and made over £30m in two years. Everyone also knows how spectacularly the producer and her star fell out kind of mystical healing... on the eve of Riverdance's return to London. Lord of the

Dance is Flatley's revenge. He and his 100-strong entourage are performing at Wembley this week, having just returned from touring Australia, How'd it go? "Oh, unbelievable," said Flatley. "They were dancin' around and jumpin' around, screamin' and howlin'. We couldn't have anticipated anything like it - I million tickets in 10 days. We were sold out more than two months before we arrived. They added two more shows in Newcastle, and they were both sold out in two hours. And

they're both 8,000-seaters." Flatley always has statistics to hand. A terrible man for the attendance figures, though it's a necessary part of his persona as dancing impresario, as arty businessman. And you gradually realise he has a whole wardrobe of personas which he adopts as the whim takes It is rather a cheek to him. At different times in our conversation he tried on the slushy Arch-romantic, the Californian Mystic, the Sex God,

Here's the Arch-romantic:

Flatley especially liked the mile-wide beaches of the Oz coastline, where he worked on his winter tan. He's a starrently embraces Australia, the tlingly handsome chap with a peach-skin fuzziness about the face (fluffy sideburns, designer stubble) and waves of streaked hair teased upwards in an aspirant rockabilly quiff. Flatley's black suit is dramatically sculpted to his compact 5ft 9in frame, his tie a tasteful and-dance extravaganza red, his shirt a long-cuffed cotton, his cufflinks expensive little silver artworks - yet you pick up a feeling of unease about him, a rootlessness in his hurt blue eyes, a sense that he's a constructed thing rather It may be something to do

separate myself and look at myself as a product. I can't ju carefully." To this end he and after every show. "If I also include something called certain parts of me. She just

His new passion is the sensory-deprivation tank, the kind that was all the rage in California 15 years ago. Mr Flatley is ecstatic about its benefits, "It's fabulous. Complete darkness and not a sound. One time I went to sleep in there and my body was jumpin' the whole time [he mimes a convulsive twitch], never toured in Australia but that was just all the bad before. We did a quarter of a energy and electricity being taken out of it... At the end of an hour is when I really start to go inside. It's when I get magnificent ideas. It's about focusing. Focus, focus, focus."

These ideas you get (I said):

the Dead-End Kid, the Blarney purveyor, the Bit of a Lad.

"Beaches, I love beaches. Every spare minute I have I go walking on an empty beach somewhere because I just love to think and dream and create. And the feel of the ocean and the fresh air - there's a great energy there. I feel very moved on a beach..." Skegness, it's so

> what you do is movement. a form of dualism Descartes He remembers creating dance How can you pursue an idea of movement while you're lying, conscious of his brain telling sense-deprived, like a floating corpse? Flatley looked hugely pleased, as if someone had

buy another violin if it breaks, you know? It doesn't work that way. I treat my legs very employs a lady called Derry Ann Morgan who specialises in "special rub-downs" before don't have the one after the show, my legs will be so sore getting out of bed in the morning, it'll take me a while even to stand up on them." Ms Morgan's manual therapies raki - "puttin' her hands over puts good energy in and sucks any bad energy out." So it's a "No, it's very commonplace. She's a gifted woman."

mentioned a secret only he knew about. "Control," he is controlling my feet at all times. I'm telling them that I'm beauty of not being able to focusing while I'm there. I'm move, and forcing your mind not just on cruise control. This to do it for you. You can't get is the real thing. And they

his feet what to do?

He leant forward, "That is

get magnificent ideas in the sensory deprivation tank. It's all about focusing. Focus, focus, focus

tinue thinking. It's brilliant. I dance like a king after it."

The Lord of the Dance show features, among several displays of superhuman agility, a weird amount of militiaman strutting, of black-shirted uniforms, dictatorial paraphernalia, masks and what might be jackboots. What was it doing in a Celtic dream-world? Flatley frowned. "You have to realise the show is fiction. It's not any particular myth or legend. It's just the best way I could interpret good versus evil. Our dancing is very precise but I don't think it's military in any way. Just very masculine..."

There's at least one moment of real magic. As Flatley does one of his complex Irishflamenco-tap routines, he glances over his shoulder and, grimacing down at the groundlevel blur of movement, he wags his fingers at his heels. Suddenly you see him, not as a dancer, but as a man dangerously set upon by a pack of snapping terriers. In other

up and try it, you have to con- know that no one else in the world can do that."

As we sit in the Lanesborough Hotel, discussing Mr Flatley's wonderfulness, his uniqueness, his focus and control, his energy and artistry, a saying from his father's native Sligo occurs to me: "If conceit was consumption, ye'd be dead long ago." He upsets lots of people. The Daily Telegraph called Lord of the Dance "a display of conceit so shameless as tators go on about the "O'Chippendales" side of his work, his "smash and grab" approach to Irish culture. They have a point. The trouble is, Flatley is unique. He has spent the bulk of his life doing something nobody else can do.

His father Michael was a building contractor who emigrated to Chicago in 1947 with his Carlow-born wife, Eilish. Michael junior was 11 when, on an Irish holiday, his mother took him to a stepdancing class back in Co Carlow. His grandmother had been Leinster dance champion: it was in

for buildings as was the

else in the world." He became the first American holder of the World Irish Dancing Championships in 1975 when he was 17. It occurred to me that, among the jocks, dudes and greaseballs of the average Chicago school, a dancer with ted in with everybody. I was a dancer but I didn't go around talking about it. I was a boxer but I didn't talk about that. I played ice hockey, I played football with the lads. We did what everyone did."

Why did he take up boxing? 'We lived in a rough neighbourhood. It was on the south side of the city, 79th and Ashland Avenue, the Little Flower parish" - after the Catholic icon. St Thérèse of Lisieux: Flatley smiles at the inaptness of the name - "and I hadda walk a mile to school. I'd cross paths with people comin' from the other side of the avenue. and I'd have fist fights nearly every day. I was a skinny little fellow. One day I came home to be risible". Other commen- and my father said, 'That's enough bloody noses. He took my brother and me to the gym at the time we were probably the only white fellers there - and we learned to handle ourselves. And they started to realise they could pick on other people, but let the two Irish guys go because it's gonna be just too difficult..."

Flatley had a period of labouring jobs ("Whenever I think I'm getting big-headed. I remember where it all came from - the days when they passed me the freezing cold shovel. I get back to it all the time") before becoming a

should know that, in its pure would find intriguing. Was he patterns in the dark: "I used to state, it's a formal and inexpressive business: hands go into the rooms in the basement, turn off all the lights so straight down by the sides, my ear would be absolute, so head stiff, no body movements I wouldn't be influenced by above the waist - the total what I saw. I still do. That's effect is of someone in a straitjacket hopping over burning coals. Then Flatley danced with The Chieftains. Paddy where I get these rhythm patterns you won't hear anywhere Moloney's purist Irish folk group, and began to change the rules. 'As I did more and more venues. I started to use my arms, to use my body and be more expressive. I couldn't use my arms like a tap dancer, was pronounced a "Living you be settling into something an Irish accent must have stuck flappin' them around, or like Treasure" by the National out like a dolmen. "No. I fit- a ballet dancer, that would be Geographic Society... too soft, nor like a flamenco dancer, although what I'm doin' is closest to flamenco. because they're Celts as well. I had to find a completely new way of doin' it, less formal but strong and powerful and confident. And the farther out I went, the more the crowd came with me. The more

things I put in [he snaps his fingers, like a Fifties beatnik] the more they'd be screamin and yellin'...

So the only professional

a-second feet, went on the road. Wasn't it, I asked, a little like speaking a language nobody else knows? Flatley mused. "I've had such a strange life. I've never had to audition for anything. People have always called me and asked me to do things. I've been everywhere, the Holly-wood Bowl, the Kennedy Cen-tre in DC. Carnegie Hall. I've danced in front of presidents, the National Endowment for 'the Arts" - and, modesty might forbid him adding, he

Along the way his stage presentation underwent another change. "It just happened one night, completely by coincidence. You know how it is. you're on tour, leading a bachelor existence. One night my clothes were a disaster, my shirt was wrinkled and under the bed somewhere. So I went on stage without a shirt, just a jacket. The audience went nuts. And I thought: why didn't I think of this before?"

Now he's off to wow Amer-

Picasso by

solo I've ever devised for myself since I was a child was built for Radio City Music Hall") to his native Chicago and the former residents of Little Flower parish. Why was he doing it? "My whole life has been to get this far and to do this. I've made enough money now, more than I can spend. What's important is that I'm putting myself into my art. People pay a lot of money to come and see me. I didn't come here to be second best". Michael, you point out.

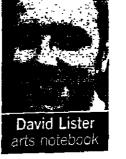
you're pushing 39. Shouldn't more slow and expressive? The Cartesian hoofer, with

his violent leanings, his fondness for the dark and his casual assumption of artistic genius. regarded me steadily. "I'm not the type of performer who gets to a scale like this and then fades into the sunset. I don't think any great artist thinks. I'll just sing at halfpower tonight, nobody'll notice. It's going to be like this and then -click! - one day it'll be over. It can't be any other way. I can't dance at 50 per cent. I have only one speed."

surely the essence of the tank words, the man and his feet the genes; it became his life. dancer full-time. Those unfa- Irish dancer in the world, the ica, from New York ("Every is stillness, and the essence of have become separate entities. Back in Chicago, he practised. miliar with Celtic dance rule-breaker with the 28-taps-

Can the popular song embrace more of life's experiences than falling in and out of love and the purchase of blue suede shoes and other accessories? When I discussed this once with Roger Daltrey of The Who he said he had hoped for a long time that rock and pop would deal with middle-aged angst just as it dealt with teenage angst. Indeed, he had thought that his old sparring partner Pete Townshend might be the very man to compose such lyrics, but it hadn't happened. Another part of life seldom put to music is the joy or otherwise of bringing up children.

An exception is the British jazz singer Gina Harkell. As well as being a singer and composer, she is one of the leading lights in a new committee to lobby for, amongst other things, more jazz on mainstream music radio — any jazz on



mainstream music radio would be a good start. Gina is a strange animal in jazz circles as she sings not about the usual jazz themes of dives, drugs, dead horn players, lost love or, if the tempo is upbeat, found love. Instead, many of her numbers are about motherhood, rare enough in pop and middle-of-the-road, and a radical departure for

piano, tenor sax and bass. One of the numbers she sang at a New Year gig I attended was called "Granny O Granny Please Comb My Hair". With words by the

poet Grace Nichols it dealt with a little girl's delight in having her grandmother tend to her coiffure. It's a brave move to domesticate the jazz idiom, and it leads to the larger question of why children feature so little in music generally. They are welcomed as babies (David Bowie's "Kooks" for his son. Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely" for his daughter etc) but once past the nappy stage, are never sung of again. Why?

radio programme (I know, one can't appear on radio, but what is the correct word?) about the arts and the national lottery. BBC Radio 4's Agenda programme had Richard Eyre of the National Theatre and Stephen Daldry of the Royal Court continuing to warn of the potential iniquity of lottery money being used to fund a revenue spending in the arts rather than just

I appeared this week on a

original intention. And I felt rather like the chap in the Bateman cartoon in advocating that this should happen in some regulated way. In fact, of course, it is happening already. The new Arts Council initiative, Arts For Everyone will give lottery money for the commissioning of new writing for the theatre and there is every likelihood that some of this new writing will end up on the stage of the Royal Court and quite possibly the National.

It should not be beyond the wit of government, the Arts Council and leading arts practitioners to earmark other areas where lottery money can be used in what have traditionally been revenue funded parts of the arts. As for breaking the apparently sacred principle of additionality (by which lottery money should not be a substitute for annual Treasury grant), it should

also not be beyond the wit of those responsible to draw up legislation saying that lottery money should never fund more than a certain percentage of arts spending.

David Bowie's 50th birthday

an interview with the singer.

was marked by the BBC by

It was plugged us being

particularly "candid." In

fact it contained virtually nothing new, and much of it was taken up with clips of interviews gone by. There was one moment though when Bowie was about to be candid. He mentioned, unprompted and most unusually for him in a live interview, the troubles in his own family. He has never spoken on TV before about his late brother's schizophrenia, but the interviewer, the illustrious and exalted Alan Yentob no less, did not pursue it at all. There are times when one

wants to strangle the

Eurostar. You've got less than 10 days to see the



largest Picasso **Portrait Exhibition** ever. It's running at the Galerie Nationale du Grand Palais in Paris, and the easiest way to get there is by Eurostar. Fares start from as little as £79'return.

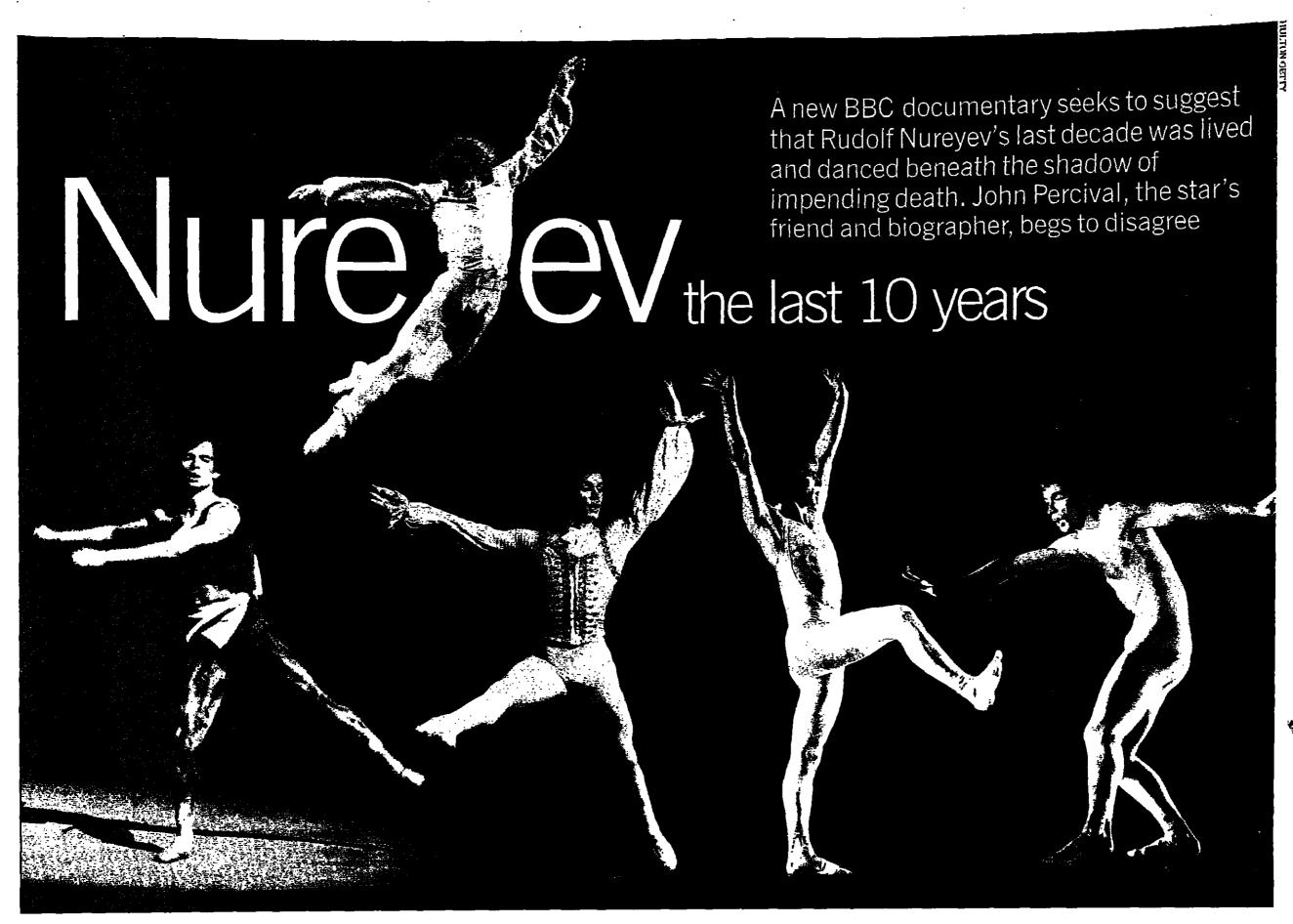
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Alberto Manguel: Evita knew my mum; Høeg's lack of feeling for Brits...6 Winterson's tragedy and Kennedy's triumph7



e mortuis - well, it used to be nothing but good that should be spoken of the dead, but now the idea seems to be that dishing the dirt is what matters. This is not just a question of the way newspaper obituaries have become more frank and honest over recent years - that is cause for gratitude - but elsewhere the trend has gone too far. And I am not the only person who will be hopping mad about the Omnibus programme marking the fourth anniversary of Rudolf Nureyev's death, to be shown by BBC1 on Tuesday.

What an opportunity lost! Granted, this programme does not parade supposed facts which are simply untrue; in that respect, it is unlike two biographies of Nureyev (one English, one American) that were rushed out once he could no longer sue. But the documentary, covering the last 10 years of his life, is both incomplete and heavily slanted, its bias indicated by the title: "Dancing through Darkness".

At least two of Nureyev's closest friends, the American Wallace Potts and the French Douce François, withdrew their co-operation from the programme-makers during filming because, Potts told me, "their approach was misleading - they had said it was about his professional life, but it became clear that they wanted to concentrate on his illness." Other witnesses who did take part, such as Nureyev's colleague Patricia Ruanne, cun be seen on camera gritting their teeth against questions they find inappropriate. And some dancers are shown only in brief snippets although they actually recorded far more; did their comments not fit the chosen line?

People with much less knowledge of Nurevev. however, are allowed to pontificate about his thoughts and motives. Among these I am inclined to place the American agent, Andrew Grossman.

who took over from Nureyev's long-term adviser, Sandor Gorlinsky. Grossman reveals a somewhat shaky grasp of what Nureyev actually achieved during his time in Paris, and his surprise at his client's reluctance to sign a contract for The King and I is revealing. Maybe he did not realise that what Nurcyev really wanted at that point was a renewal of his Paris contract on acceptable terms.

"He made a million dollars" from The King and I, Grossman claims. Nureyev liked to make money. but after 1975 it all went to the Foundation he had set up. Some was invested in the paintings and antique furniture that filled his various homes, but when his dearest friend Maude Gosling expressed worries about his extravagance, he begged her "Don't stop me, because I love to have them around me. When I'm gone, they can all be sold." The proceeds, after providing for his relatives, were to benefit dance, and especially young dancers; and indeed several scholarships have already been awarded.

The starting (and finishing) point of the BBC programme is Nureyev's last big production: an opu-lent version of the classic La Bayaden, premiered at the Paris Opera on 8 October 1992. Nurevev had not long recovered from painful kidney stones, then struggled against a heavy respiratory infection to stage the three-act work in just three weeks. The film shows him taking a rehearsal, hardly able to talk but his eyes not missing a point, conveying his corrections by gestures and through an assistant.

No wonder that, by opening night, he was worn out and had to watch the performance from a couch in a stage-hox. Cameras focus on his gaunt face as he is helped on stage to acknowledge an ovation. This is a sad sight, and the implication we are left with is that afterwards he just curled up in a corner and waited to die.

premiere, he talked to Maude Gosling about his plans for choreographing Hans Werner Henze's Ondine. When I visited him two days later in his apartment on the Quai Voltaire, he was delighted that he had persuaded his doctor, Michel Canesi, to certify him fit to fly the next day to the Caribbean island of Saint-Barthélemy, where he had a house. "I'll never shake this off in all the cold and damp here in Paris," he told me, "but in the sun I'll soon be better." That evening he went off to the Opéra-Comique to watch Roland Petit's Marseilles Ballet and afterwards to discuss plans for conducting some performances of Petit's Coppélia. And when his dancer friends Charles Jude and Florence Clerc accompanied him to Saint-Barth's, Nureyev started working out movements on Jude for a future pro-

duction of Britten's The Prince of the Pagodas. All his life Nureyev had been used to overcoming illness and injury. Rather than lose his role in a new ballet by Frederick Ashton, he struggled into Covent Garden with a temperature of 102 for the premiere of Jazz Calendar. (Royal Ballet dancers punningly nicknamed him Randolph Neveroff.) When an injury during Act 1 of La Sylphide once forced him to allow a replacement to go on in Act 2: he still got on stage somehow for the evening's last ballet, The Lesson, where he could adjust the steps to save the hurt leg, and his acting could cover any shortcomings in technique. And after one performance, I remember watching him remove yards of elastic bandage worn for support like a puttee

round one ankle under his tights. So when Dr Canesi diagnosed him as HIV-positive in 1984, this did not make him change his professional way of life. The film's implication that he began rushing to cram everything in is a misread-

Actually, no, he didn't. At the dinner after the ing: he had always rushed, all his life wanted to do more than there was time for, simply because he had so many ambitions and interests. Besides, as Canesi says, at that time the expectation was that Aids would kill only one in 10; the grimmer, longer-term truth became apparent only gradually. And Nureyev acted as if he would beat this illness like the others.

The 10 years covered by the programme were a period of astonishing achievement. Nureyev's transformation of the Paris Opera Ballet is described by the ballet master Patrice Bart, but it could surely have been made clearer to a non-specialist audience just how he changed the dancers' approach, allowed young talent its head, and widened their range with a whole new repertoire. From historical re-creations to new commissions, from classic revivals to the most extreme modernists, from his own productions to a steady stream of visiting choreographers, they tackled everything and did it well.

I cannot think of anyone else who has achieved so much on taking over an established company. What Nureyev did at the Paris Opéra would have been a full-time job for anyone else, but (while keeping in touch via daily phone calls whenever he was absent) he combined it with guest appearances and productions, world tours, and launching a further career as a conductor.

That was not just a whim but a way of continuing to perform when he could no longer dance, and also of enriching his love of music. Herbert von Karajan had advised him to do it and even said "I'll teach you". Nureyev studied conducting seriously in Vienna and California, directed concerts, and conducted an American Ballet Theatre gala of the Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet. A fascinating development for a dancer - but one that is not shown at all in this programme, and gets only a throwaway

mention: "He conducted and choreographed and continued to dance."

How good it would have been to see some of this, as well as more detail about what happened in Paris, instead of the interminably repeated pictures of dancers walking through corridors, interspersed with the most hackneyed and irrelevant background shots of motor traffic and trains, people smoking or sitting in cafés, even that wonderful old cliché, the Eiffel Tower. Add lots of slow motion and soft focus, with a melancholy soundtrack specially composed by Alexander Balanescu, and you have what often looks more like a travel commercial than an

arts documentary. The programme's makers might have probed further into why, after such a triumph as ballet director. Nureyev's contract was not renewed. Jack Lang, the former Arts Minister who originally appointed him to the job, claims not to know why Nureyev was edged out, but mutters darkly about "personal problems" and his health. Nobody breathes the name Pierre Bergé (head of Yves Saint-Laurent) who had been put in charge of both the Paris opera houses and whose main achievement there was to have sacked not only Nureyev but the musical director Daniel Barenboim in favour of replacements

neither of whom lasted long. Still, Nureyev (as so often in life) actually has the last laugh in this programme. Forget the baleful comments; ignore the lugubrious background music. Just look at Nureyev's face. In almost every shot, he is either smiling or laughing outright. And this is the man under imminent threat, the man "dancing through darkness"? Or is it the man I remember, who loved life and enjoyed it to the full?

Decide for yourself. 'Omnibus' 10.45pm Tucsday, BBC1

or not

It may not be in an idiom Ronnie Scott would recognise, but the future of British jazz has never sounded better. By Phil Johnson

cigarette, staring into space... Whether the venue was a hotel in Havana during the jazz festival he and his partner Pete King helped to organise there; in clubs, pubs and concert halls throughout Britain on tours with his quintet, or. most famously, at his own club in Soho, the late Ronnie Scott did a lot of staring into space. Caught in repose, his hawk-like profile wreathed in clouds of smoke, the contemplative moment provided by a fag break seemed to extend, on a chain of tobacco, into infinity.

It's tempting, however fanciful, to imagine that the space Scott was staring into was also something to do with the future of jazz, and his own place in it. A terrific tenor saxophonist in his prime, whose Jazz Couriers group with Tubby Haves (who died in 1973) was the highpoint of British bop in the late Fifties, Scott nevertheless suffered from insecurity about the value of his playing, often refusing offers to sit in with the American stars he had booked to play at his club, who admired him unreservedly. Even the tetchy Charles Mingus gave proise: "Of all the white boys.
Ronnie Scott gets closer to the negro gets to a Nobel – since it was established

tanding at the bar, smoking a blues feeling," he said in 1961. This, of course, was part of the problem. Jazz musicians of Scott's generation dedicated themselves to an idiom whose cultural roots lay largely in another continent and another racial identity, and they tended to measure their own art accordingly, becoming hypersensitive about their imagined shortcomings.

Although there has been a vital European jazz tradition since the 1920s and Django Reinhardt, it's only comparatively recently that it has seemed to offer British musicians a credible alternative to aspire to. At present, European jazz has never been stronger. with British artists the strongest of all if we accept the measurement offered by the annual Danish Jazzpar Prize (a cash reward of \$34,000, and an overall budget of \$250,000 for performances, broadcasts and recordings). This year's winner is Django Bates from Beckenham, the pianist, composer and bandleader (of Loose Tubes and Delightful Precipice). Three years ago, the winner was Canterbury's Tony Coe. the saxophonist and clarinettist, and these two represent the only non-Americans to

eight years ago. Significantly, both Bates and Coe abjure the bop tradition in favour of an eclecticism that draws from earlier and later forms of jazz, as well as from classical and folk music. For young British jazz musicians today, the range of influences has never been broader, though what for Scott would have been the great tradition - the lineage of bop from Charlie Parker to the Marsalis brothers - can be a burden as much as an inspiration.

For the saxophonist Julian Arguelles whose Scapes album of last year was one of the most striking, and strikingly different, of all British jazz albums - the bop tradition is a perplexing inheritance. "I don't know how I deal with it," he

says. "I go through phases. Sometimes I feel really happy playing saxophone and then sometimes I find it quite frustrating or even depressing, especially because there is a real tradition with the sax, a tradition I came up through, of John Coltrane and Sonny Rollins, It really is hard to not sound like that; it's in the nature of the instrument to sound very, well, jazzy. I listen to Coltrane and Rollins and just think that that's what

the instrument does best." Argüelles finds alternative models in

classical and folk music, but recognises the importance of a European jazz tradition too, citing the examples of the Nor-wegian Jan ("Officium") Garbarek, the British John Surman and the Brazilians

Hermeto Pascoal and Egberto Gismonti. At 23, the pianist Nikki Yeoh is perhaps the most exciting British jazz musician of her generation. Yet to make a record, she came to prominence after sitting in on a jam session at the Jazz Café as an amateur, where she impressed Courtney Pine sufficiently for him to pick her for his band there and then. She has since toured with Neneh Cherry, formed her own trio, Infinitum, begun a series of solo performances and written for the contemporary classical keyboard sextet Piano Circus, who programmed her piece alongside works by John Cage. "I don't see myself as fitting in with either the European or American traditions", she says. "There isn't so much pressure these days to fit in with any category. People are starting to get their influences from all sorts of different places."

Yeoh does, however, recognise national differences in the way jazz is

like Dizzy Gillespie, or Wynton Marsalis now, they wouldn't just get you out of bed and say. 'Right, G flat minor, ninth chord!' They'd explain how it works, and pass their knowledge on to members of the band. That sort of thing isn't woven

into the fabric of the cloth here." Yeoh is currently working on a commission for this year's Bath Festival which involves harmonising the sound of the spoken word from readings in different languages of one of her own poems, for a composition for 14 musi-

cians and a video projection. Video projections? Compositions for six pianos? John Cage? You can almost see Ronnie Scott shaking his head with disdain and reaching for the packet of fags. He would, however, surely love Yeoh's improvisation on Coltrane's "Giant Steps", and thrill to Argüelles' tender reading of "Too Young to Go Steady", the corny standard Coltrane transfigured into rare art. Staring into such a space, perhaps the future of British jazz wouldn't look too glum, even to Ronnie?

Julian Arguelles Quartet 8pm today Julian passed on from one generation to the next. "In the US, there's a tradition of bandleaders as teachers. With someone "Blackheath Concern Halls, 23 Lee Rd, London SE3 (0181-463 0100)



Whatever

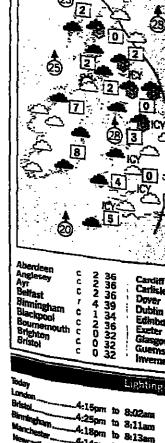
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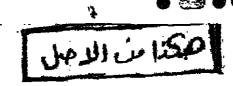
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happened to.

intervals are the legs of an impossibly slim woman dangling from a trapeze







حكذا من الاعل

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Western Market

EXCELLENT 占 GOOD

POOR

critical view on view our view

overview

THE FILM The Mirror Has Two Faces Barbra Streisand produces, directs, writes the theme tune and stars in her remake of a French comedy about a professor

who falls for Jeff Bridges and discovers her inner beauty. With Lauren Bacall. Adam Mars-Jones felt "the eclipse of the character by the director-star sabotages any number of moments". "Bacall is simply wonderful... relentless schmaltz,

shuddered the Standard. "This mess of a movie... joyless camp," gasped the Times. "Silly, flibbertigibbet, sentimental and modestly enjoyable," conceded the FT. Cert 15, 124 mins, on general release.

Some great one-liners drown in oversincerity. The definition of a vanity

Diana Rigg was the best thing in it, but there was little competition.

but it collapses into Tales of the Unexpected.

Paul Taylor "laughed out loud" but was

and beautifully designed... highly accomplished," approved the Guardian.

In rep at the Cottesloe, Royal National

Beautifully directed and

acted, and very funny,

An element of surprise

Chopin Recitals. By Adrian Jack

ouis Lortie devoted part two of his Chopin recital at the Wigmore Hall last Friday to the 24 Preludes – not so frequently played as you would expect for such popular pieces. Lortie is certainly a strong pianist, and played the rippling left hand of No 3 with a boldness hardly warranted by the piano, leggiero marking. But the outer sections of the "Raindrop" Prelude were delicate and really quiet, and stilled the audience like a spell. Despite performances that were never less than technically commanding and expressively purposeful, however, the response to

> would shape the music. Ten years after he first made such a strong impression in this country. Lortic has not failed to live up to it, but he hasn't really surprised us either. With more than 20 dises to his credit, including the complete piano works of Ravel and sonatas of Beethoven, he's being cast in the role of cando-all, another cycle-slogger. That may be commercially rewarding, but it doesn't necessarily make for the mosinteresting artistic results.

most of the programme

seemed underwhelming.

Some spark was missing, as it

Lortic knew too well how he

The qualities of Andrew Wilde - not to be confused with his British senior David Wilde, still less with the veteran American Earl Wild have been compared to those of Myra Hess and Solomon. His QEH recital on Wednesday made apparent why. He chose a Chopin programme of almost overwhelming richness - the Fantasy, Barcarolle and Sonatas Nos 2 and 3. He

dashed on and off the

way, starting each work

platform in a heetic kind of

almost before he was seated. There was an exciting freshness, even a sense of danger in his playing, but nothing unconsidered. The Fantasy was paced like an epic journey, from the long preparatory section, through the lyrical efflorescence and contrasting repose in the distant central slow section, to a thrilling surge of emotion at the end. The Barcarolle showed an exquisite sense of rhythmic style, the swaying motion nudged just enough to send the piece floating. Most remarkable of all, perhaps, were Wilde's passion and intelligence - and courage in the treacherous Second Sonata. His boldness in dramatising the exploratory opening of the development in the first movement was highly original and effective. and his easy melodic grace in the long tune at the heart of the Funeral March made you wonder why most planists sound so still and boring at this point. An inspired, and inspiring, performance, rising

fully to all the great moments. After which, there was hardly room for admiration to increase. But the Third Sonata was splendid, too forthright and clear, even though Wilde pedalled the stormier passages generously. He took nothing for granted, and really played the piano like an orchestra, thinning out his tone deliberately in the slow movement, rather as string-players might cut down on vibrato. For once, I actually wanted more encores, just to hear what he would do with them. We got two Waltzes; in C sharp minor, Op 64 No 2, delicately coloured and affectionate: and in A flat. Op 34 No 1, in all its brilliant splendour. You can hear Wilde again, at the Wigmore Hall, in March.

Tinselly sounds and festive fun with the Bournemouth SO. By Ian Pillow

hristmas came to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra suddenly, without warning, as it always does. We'd long forgotten about those dreadful motorised nodding gnomes in the shopping precinct opposite the Poole Arts Centre - they seemed to have been there since September. There we were, having groaned our way through yet another Brahms symphony with Herbert Von Mogadon in the morning, and were taking our places after lunch expecting much of the same. when suddenly we heard a familiar voice (we hadn't bothered to look up at the conductor's rostrum), "Good afternoon, everyone." "Good afternoon, Ron," came back the feeble response from a band fazed by Mogadon's endless soliloquies about the meaning of an F sharp. In true panto fashion, the conductor tried again. "Good afternoon, everyone." We suddenly found our party hats. "Good afternoon, Ron!" - this time fortissimo. Ron Good-

win was here. At a stroke, it was Christmas, As further evidence of this there was a memo on my chair from the management. Was I going to present my pre-concert talk, "The use of sonata-rondo form in Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and its implications on modern society", as advertised? This was from a new member of staff who had failed to appre-

ciate her predecessor's sense of humour. There is something reassuring about the Ron

from one perspective at least, the net

improvement in the world would be nil.

Shawn's play – a monologue delivered by a privileged traveller in a smart hotel in a Third World

dictatorship - poses as a questioning

of all the intellectual presuppositions that enable cosseted Western culturati

to carry on cosseting themselves: that

high art and beauty have a trickle-

with Little Donkey after 11 months on the battlefield in hand-to-hand mortal combat with the great classies is as comforting as one's fireside arm chair. Anyway, the jokes are different from last year (they come from the year before) and

Have you heard the latest

'Knock! Knock!' joke?

there is always a novelty item. This year it was a spectacular arrangement of O Little Town of Bethlehem. As the whole programme is decorated with tinselly, tinkly festive sounds, we have one of those fiendishly clever electronic keyboard things which at the press of a button reproduces - with uncanny accuracy - a vague, approximate impression of a harpsichord, a piano, or an ice-cream van (I'm told it's meant to be a celeste). It can also transpose into any key. If you can't be bothered with all those black notes, just stick to the white ones and the micro chip will do the rest. That is, if it's in a good mood - it has a habit of throwing an artistic wobbly for no apparent reason. Ever since the poor keyboard player once unwittingly detonated "Cosmic Explosion" during Silent Night, we've always waited with bated breath.

For O Little Town of Bethlehem, it was supposed to be a harpsichord (for the olde worlde touch), twanging away on top of a triangle (for the festive touch), a harp (for the angelic touch) and earth-shattering kit drums and thumping, pounding electric guitars (for the devotional touch). Having thus set the scene, the rest of the orchestra launched forth Goodwin Christmas Show. The music is the with the tune, all in a merry F major. Except

player was hammering away in state-of-the-art music on flute: the conductor pointed... "when F major, the synthesiser had decided unilaterally to transpose up a semi-tone into F sharp - and there was nothing anyone could do about it. O Little Town of Bethlehem thus emerged in what sounded like a newly discovered arrange-

ment by Stockhausen. If our favourite Christmas event is the Ron-Goodwin Show, coming a close second is the 'Seasonal Concert with Carols" that we do in Quires and Places where they don't want the Ron Goodwin Show. Its success hinges on the Guest Presenter. This character is usually found by our management sticking a pin in the Radio Times and coming up with some nerd off Blue Peter or Saturday kids' TV. The best ones are those who have to narrate Peter and the Wolf or some such thing, can't read a note of music and don't know a double-bass from a dustbin lid.

This was a vintage year. To add to the fun. not only could the presenter not read a note of music, but the conductor was from East Europe and didn't understand a word of what the presenter was saying anyway.

Even though Santa was kind to me this year, the first rehearsal of Goldilocks and the Three Bears (special commission) remains the highlight of my Christmas. The presenter looked nervous. "Don't vorry," said the conductor.
"Jus' say, ven I do zis," pointing a finger.

Wonce upon a toim..." (our presenter was Irish) "Goldilocks was walkin' t rough a wood she came to a little cott... "Stop! No! Zat was fur ze first wioleence. Start again."

"Wonce upon a toim Goldilocks was walkin" through a wood on a foin sommer's day...' Skippy, whistly music on flute, then a sexy, slinky tune on the first violins... "when she came to a little cottage. 'Oi wonnder if anyone's in?" In an inspirational burst of improvised method-acting that would have been the talk of any drama academy, the presenter here beat his fist upon the air, pretending to knock upon the door. This was followed by the sound of the

vibraphone imitating a doorbell. "Is there nobody in? Oi'll troy agin." (Didn't I tell you? The script is up for the TS Eliot Prize.) Failing to appreciate the composer's inspirational masterstroke with the vibraphone. the presenter pounded the air with his fist again.

"No!" interrupted our frustrated conductor. "You press ze finker in ze eer - two - and ve make ze dink-donk." Satisfied that he had thus clarified the situation, he then said. "Ve do again."

"Is there nobody in? Oi'll troy agin," and with touching obsequious obedience the presenter put a finger in each car, as instructed, presumably expecting the vibraphone to activate some special detonating device. Just as well he misunderstood really. Had he really put two fingers in the air in what was supposed to be a "family show", it would have been a black day same year in year out, but coming face to face for the harpsichord. Even though the wretched on a foin sommer's day..." Skippy, whistly for orchestra-audience relations.

plague on both your houses

Paul Taylor urges zero tolerance for the bleeding-heart compassion and moralising Manhattan Marxism of Wallace Shawn's 'The Fever'

n Wallace Shawn's one-person play, The Fever, Clare Coulter talks of political gradualism, rather than finding herself drawn towards a bloody revolution, which will improve beautiful beggar in a poor country. the lot of the poor, etc. etc. There's money in her purse; she could give the beggar some of it. "And a voice The monologue takes us on a spiralling, hallucinatory plunge into a kind of nervous breakdown, though, as says, 'Why not all of it? Why not give her all that you have?" One argument this nervous breakdown seems to have against giving the beggar all that you been triggered more by what the have - in the literal Christian sense of speaker has seen of the world's "all" - is that you would simply be wickedness than by personal problems, swapping places with this person. For the degree (if any) to which it is the sake of a few minutes' relief from supposed to represent an unbalanced middle-class liberal guilt, you would be view of reality is left unclear. The production opens at the Royal Court in putting the beggar in the same morally a week that has exposed afresh the dubious position with regard to poverty that you had formerly occupied. And,

down, humanising effect: that it's

difficulties of taking humane, honourable and effective measures with regard to the destitute and homeless. Zero-tolerance policies or bleedingheart compassion? Either way, the danger is that the focus of concern will not be on the poor but on the sensitivities of the "haves".

Performed with mesmeric skill by Ms Coulter - whose rapid, driven delivery. rubbery, determined mouth, and

mocking, self-loathing inflections. beautifully bring out the text's disturbing zeal - The Fever thinks it has the measure of the intractable contradictions in the guilt-ridden liberal stance. But it is riddled with unexamined contradictions of its own and presumptuous assumptions that make you recoil from its garrulous Manhattan Marxism.

I am not. God knows, a religious person but, next to the media appearances of Richard Dawkins, I can't think of anything more likely to make me one than the glib, imprisoning materialism of the outlook on display here. Referring to the chambermaid in the Third World hotel, the speaker offers a savage parody of the Westerners' unspoken attitude towards her - "(she) is repulsive, ignorant - it's not inappropriate that she should live in hell, because to you she really seems like a creature from hell". But the idea that this girl is in "hell" because she is very poor is just the equally impertinent flipside to the old Romantic view that

fetishised the supposed simplicity and

THE TV DRAMA

Rebecca

Daphne du Maurier's romantic novel with

Charles Dance, Diana Rigg and Emilia Fox

in the leading role played (spookily) by

Thomas Sutcliffe pointed to Hitchcock,

"Another glossy production from TV's over-

used dressing-up box," yawned the Mail.

"Exceptional performances," beamed the

marvellous film (tewer breasts, far more

eroticism) has been re-released. See it.

Times. "Stunning," squealed the Sun.

Been and gone, but Hitchcock's

who took "half the time to double the

effect". "Inept... a one-dimensional

mutilation," stormed the Standard.

Carlton's two-part dramatisation of

her mother for the BBC in 1980.

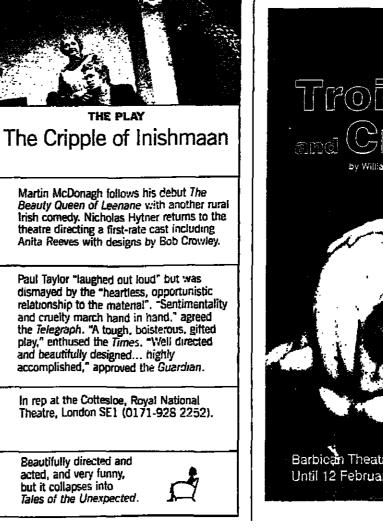
wisdom of the destitute and outcast. And if the chambermaid's life is "hell". how would you describe the life of the people on the torture tables to which frequent allusion is made? It is, in any case, typical of the simplistic way The Fever divides up the world that you might suppose the poor have the

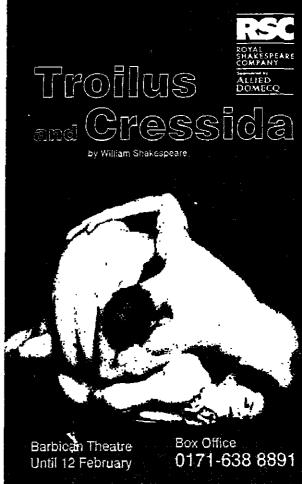
monopoly on being tortured. Full of lurid imaginings, Shawn's play is vitiated by a failure of imagination. Guilt at her privileged way of life seems to have resulted in the speaker virtually regarding such privilege as the necessary condition of happiness. Irritation at the way she can't escape from referring everything back to herself has produced in her an intermittently reductive response to any art that portrays the feelings of an individual with the disqualification of a moderate income upwards. There were knowing. complacent sniggers from the audience when she wondered why she had ever found The Cherry Orchard moving. Chekhov's heroine may have lost her estate, but she's going to an apartment

in Paris, so save your sympathy. By that criterion, Oedipus can go stuff himself, because he lives in a palace.

There's an overarching paradox in the piece. "Artists who create works of art that inspire sympathy and good values do not change the lives of the poor." So why then was The Fever written in such a way that (as a note from Shawn indicates) it can "be performed in anyone's flat or home"? This is rather like running a meals-on-wheels service that subjects its recipients to a stem lecture arguing that the nutritional value of food is a complete myth. Being in two minds about art has long been a valid subject for art but I don't think that The Ferer approaches this theme honourably. It feels more like a case of wanting to have your cake and eat it than like a courageous self-impaling on a double-pronged contradiction. Like Shawn's Designated Mourner, premiered at the National Theatre last year, this earlier drama bifurcates the world crudely and then, in effect, says "A plague on both your houses". GERAINT LEWIS

I'd spent the afternoon agonising over which work to vote for in the "Best Play" category of the Critics' Circle Awards for 1996. Seeing The Fever cleared my mind on this question. Last spring, the Royal Court produced a new drama about a lonely divorcee who breaks the rules of the day centre for the homeless, where she does voluntary work, by taking in and embarking on a relationship with one of its clients. Through a series of misapprehensions, she winds up being publicly humiliated by this temporary lover, who dismisses her attempted kindness as "all middle-class wank. Do something for some poor sod like me. Feel good about yourself... and get a fuck into the bargain." Why this charge is both correct and completely wrong and why the man both has a right and no right to say this to her are issues which this play teases out with a largeness of spirit and imagination that put The Fever to shame. I shall be voting for Clare McIntyre's The Thickness of Skin. To 25 Jan. Reyal Court at the Amhassadors. London WC2 (0171-565 5000)





Planet of the canapés

Roger Clarke on a simian satire

The Woman and the Ape by Peter Høeg, Harvill, £15.99

eter Hoeg is Denmark's most his redemption of Madelene is the core of the book. since Hans Christian Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard. Pitched between these two extremes of naive metaphor and dour fatalism lies Høeg's demesne, where rather chilling, fairy-talelike things happen in anti-authoritarian contexts. Høeg's new book will shock the

more sedate purchasers of his icy bestseller, Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow. Its theme is superficially controversial: Madelene, the alcoholic Danish wife of upper-class English conservationalist Adam Burden, runs off to live in a London park with a new species of ape, pongo hominoides londiniensis. But this isn't an exploration of bestiality in the style of, say, Walerian Borowczyk's zoophile films. No; this is Fay Wray in Shakespeare's forest of Arden. This is farce, this is satire. This is Oshima's 1987 chimp-fancying film Max Mon Amour (Charlotte Rampling spurns diplomat husband for an ape) given social rather than sexual teeth. This is Planet of the Apes re-written by Adam Mars-Jones. Could it be, implies Høeg, that the Queen of England is an ape? Why Hoeg has chosen to satirise

ludicrous caricatures. But we are in the land of heavy metaphor. His London is an unrecognisable city viewed through a kaleidoscope of that puzzling and half-cocked literary genre, magic realism. The opening scene: a sailing ship hoves into Wapping's docklands like something out of the pseudo-Elizabethan passages in Eliot's The Waste Land. On board a new kind of ape is being smuggled. Shaved and made articulate, it later passes for a human being called (Darwin reference) Erasmus. Erasmus's journey through the undergrowth

of London - depicted as awash

with carnivorous predators - and

the British class system, about

which he knows very little, is a

mystery. His portraits of cockney yobs and over-bred toffs are

core of the book. Høeg comes across as a mayerick

with a hippy social conscience in this and earlier books. When he writes about "feudalistic class supremacy" you can tell he doesn't like it, and Adam seems disliked by his creator not for any moral lapse but for having genteel table manners, the result of "400 years of evolution". When the hue and cry goes up after Madelene and Erasmus elope, Høeg unleashes his most direct attack. Erasmus was "like the Falklands war only on a smaller scale, a dragon, an economy-sized King-Kong tailor-made for taking the public mind off such problems as the general decline and impoverishment of the city, race riots and widespread crime". I couldn't help but be disappointed by Høeg's book, which is shapeless and confused, didactic and dreamy at the same time. I found his take on British social structures frankly risible, like a bad male writer trying hard to write female roles. His oblique jousting against colonial attitudes and snooty expats, monied families and corrupt government is all very worthy but it never rings true. When the story becomes a tale of racial/genetic identity and a fable about education (with the ape educated like Frankenstein's monster), the more interesting violent and sexual strands have petered out. I look forward to Martin Amis going over to Denmark to draw conclusions from their biker gangs with rocket launchers, their beastie porn and

Copenhagen. I far prefer the bizarre denouement of a little-known book by John Collier, published in 1931: His Monkey wife, or Married to a Chimp. This hairy bride snuffs out the nuptial candle with a "prehensile foot" before the wedding night begins. Høeg. essentially a puritan, would never have such a decadent detail in this unnecessarily wholesome book.

their anarchistic drugs commune,

Christiania, in the heart of

Out of body experience

Alberto Manguel follows the progress of an undiplomatic corpse

Santa Evita by Tomás Elov Martinez, Doubleday, £15.99

few years ago, I took my mother to see the musical Evita. My father had been Perón's ambassador to Israel, and my mother considered herself a more-than-passing acquaintance of Evita Perón. Evita would swoop by our house in Buenos Aires and take my mother on shopping sprees to Paris or Rome from which she returned loaded with gifts and stories. My mother left the show humming the tunes but unimpressed by the heroine. "Evita wasn't like that at all," she complained. "She was the feistiest, most ambitious, brilliant, ruthless and seductive crea-ture I ever met. I don't think anyone could

succeed in showing you what she was like."
I'm not certain if Tomás Eloy Martínez, in Santa Evita, has succeeded in recreating that Superwoman to my mother's satisfaction. What he has accomplished is the most powerful work of fiction to come from Latin America since One Hundred Years of Soli-nude. "Work of fiction" is a misnomer. Martínez uses the devices of the novelist but only to establish his facts, in the tradition of Michelet or Lytton Strachey. This artful telling allows him to grasp Evita's huge myth, made up of events that have since echoed and grown in the popular imagination, and give it a coherent shape.

Martinez's own search for Evita's story is woven through the book. As a young jour-nalist in the 1960s, interested in the convulsive history of Argentina from Perón's ascent to power in 1946 to his fall in 1955, he convinced the ageing demagogue in his exile in Spain to grant him a series of interviews that became Perón's memoirs. These were an imaginary recreation of the past, largely invented by Peron's magus-like secretary, López Rega. Intrigued by fiction becoming fact. Martínez decided to turn fact into fiction: The Novel of Perón, in 1985, told the "true" story of Perón's progress. Martínez realised that, Perón, though

important, was not at the core of that mass of images, myths and stories that define Argentina. At the core of Argentina's imaginaire lies Evita. "What are the elements that went into the making of the myth of Evita?", he wonders. Her meteoric rise (he answers), her young death, the love Peron supposedly felt for her, her Robin Hood-like Foundation for the Poor, the fact that she fulfilled poor people's dreams of bridal trousseaux, refrigerators or artificial limbs, the fetishistic attributes of Evita the Saint that made people want to touch her so that many refused to spend the money she flung at them and framed it like a sacred



Dinner with a diva: Alberto Manguel's parents with Eva Péron in Buenos Aires, c 1950

relic. Finally, there was the never-completed Monument to the Descamisados (the 'Shirtless Ones," as followers of Perón were called) that Evita wanted built as her Taj Mahal to the people. Every myth requires an open end, something unfinished. The monument symbolises that expectation.

Roaches to riches, tangos to tiaras - there are few, thanks to Lloyd Webber and Madonna, who don't know the early chapters of the Evita story. Less well known is Perón's wish to have her corpse embalmed after her death from cancer, and the fact that after his ousting in 1955 the body disappeared until it was (some say miraculously) repatriated in 1971. Unknown by all, except its kidnappers or guardians, is what happened to the body in the intervening 16 years - until the publication of Santa Evita.

For many months, Martinez gathered his evidence, reconstructing Evita's life, interviewing everyone who might bear witness. As he says, there are only two characters in the book whom he never met, one of them Evita herself. Again and again, he mind other grisly and adored relics whose reinvents a country and its heroine.

came across trivial lies, such as Evita's birthplace or her age, invented by Perón and Evita for no obvious reasons. Why did they lie? "Because they could no longer tell what was true and what was false, and because, consummate actors both, they had begun to portray themselves in other roles. They lied because they had decided that reality would be what they wanted it to be. They did the same thing novelists do."

Like their characters, novelists fall prey to melodramatic situations. In 1989, when he thought he had all the facts, Martinez received a phone call. The voice told him that, since Martinez had given such an accurate picture of Perón, he had been chosen as the recipient of Evita's real story.

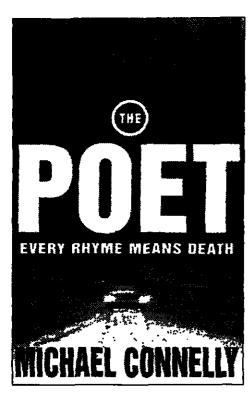
Nothing that any so-called magic realist might care to invent touches the story of Evita's body. If a country can find its representation in a person - as Argentina did in Evita - then to possess that person, dead or alive, lends the illusion of possessing the

possession meant something vaster than themselves: Rasputin's prepuce kept by a couple of exiled grandes dames in memory of Mother Russia, St Catherine's emaciated arm clutched by General Franco on his sick bed as proof that Christ was on his side.

Evita's corpse was pursued by an enamoured colonel, bedded by a major who murdered his wife for its jealous sake, hidden in the projectionist cabin of a Buenos Aires movie theatre, where the projectionist's daughter played with it as with a doll. Not only did the corpse carry within it the country's agonies and libido; it dragged in its wake the old-fashioned mummy's curse that touches each of the participants in the saga including Martinez, who suffered, during the writing, from a series of misadventures.

Novel or chronicle, hagiography or history: the reader is ultimately indifferent as to which shelf a book is exiled. Astonishing, intelligent, horrific, humorous, compassionate, Santa Evita tells a story more rivcountry. The itinerant corpse brings to eting than any fabulation, and in the process

The parties are over, the turkey's eaten (at last), the sky's grey and life seems flatter than usual.



So draw the curtains, stoke up the fire, and settle down with the book guaranteed to electrify the dullest January day. The one Time Out called 'an unputdownable masterclass in thriller writing'.

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ORION PAPERBACKS

The incredible voyager

Frank McLynn acclaims the prince of whales

Herman Melville: A Biography Vol I, 1819-1851 by Hershel Parker, Johns Hopkins University Press, £27.50

hat have the following got in common: R L Stevenson, Lawrence of Arabia, C G Jung. F R Leavis, Jack London, Orson Welles, D H Lawrence, Robert Graves, Albert Camus, E M Forster and Somerset Maugham? This list could be extended almost infinitely, and the answer is that all were passionate admirers of Herman Melville. Yet, in Britain at least, Melville seems! I imprined that legion of the literary lost who are paid formal obeisance but never read.

Unfortunately, Hershel Parker's biography, which takes his hero through the first 32 years of life at an average of 30 pages per year, seems unlikely to reverse this trend. This is American academic biography at its stodgiest, long on exhaustive scholarship, short on explanation as to why Melville has enthused so many talented admirers. There is no real sense of America's greatest writer.

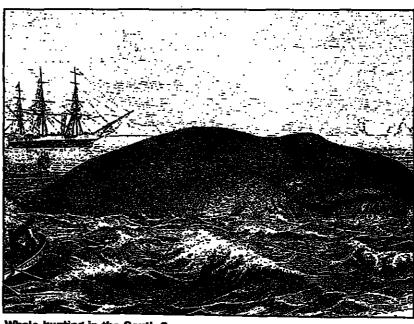
A New Yorker, Melville shipped out to Liverpool as a deckhand after working as a bank clerk and teacher. He next joined a whaler, jumped ship in the Marquesas and lived among Typee cannibals before serving on a US frigate. He began writing in 1846, after marrying the daughter of a Chief Justice of Massa-

chusetts and retiring to farm in Pittsfield.
As a Melvillean, I have often wondered why so many people are blind to his towering genius. The criticisms seem to be, in ascending order of seriousness: that the author of Moby-Dick wrote about the politically incorrect embject of whale hunting; that there . . . or . . or . . . in his novels: that he is "dated , . ' his

preoccupation with evil has no more resonance for a post-Auschwitz world; and that his masterwork is a bloated Leviathan of German mysticism, New England transcendentalism and sub-Carlylean metaphysics.

Melville was not, contrary to popular

belief, the famous homo unius libri - the man who wrote one book. Redburn and Whitejacket are classic sea stories. Typee and Omoo, describing Melville's roamings in the Pacific from 1841 to 1844, launched a thousand romantic adventures in the South Seas. Melville was also a master of the short story and impressionistic piece. Among his neglected achievements in this genre are the novella Billy Budd, which inspired Benjamin Britten to produce his finest opera, and the haunting Benito Cereno, which director John Huston spent half his life unsuccessfully trying to film.



Whale-hunting in the South Seas

In his story Bartleby the Scrivener, Melville effectively created the avantgarde alienated hero, while in Pierre he anticipated modernism. His uncompleted The Confidence Man joins those other enigmatic "unfinisheds", Edwin Drood and Weir of Hermiston.

But it was with Moby-Dick in 1851 that Mclville unquestionably joined the world's "top ten" novelists. An academic industry has grown up around it. Symbol-hunters have managed to attribute almost every conceivable interpretation to Moby-Dick. The meaning of a great book can never be exhausted. But against those who argue that this is a baggy mon-ster, a Yankee madman's answer to Laurence Sterne, I would submit that Moby-Dick is delightful perfection.

Dealing with the profoundest themes, it is a marvel of symmetry and balance. This is achieved through Melville's genius in unerringly locating the point of equilibrium as he constantly navigates between naturalism and symbolism, good and evil, conscious and unconscious. Moby-Dick is first and foremost the story of a quest, by the monomaniac Captain Ahab, for the white whale. But the quest is also the search for ultimate reality. It would have been easy for Melville to allow the minutiae of whaling to get out of hand, or for metaphysical speculations to make the maritime adventure a mere afterthought. But the

quest for the whale deepens the speculations and is deepened by them. One can see why Jung, with his emphasis on "one world" neither purely material nor

psychological, was so drawn to this work. There is a similar interpenetration in Melville's treatment of evil. He implicitly denounces the Christian ideal of perfection as a metaphysical misunderstanding: "good and evil braided be". The narrator Ishmael's survival at the novel's end denotes the tacking between the two perspectives. To make human-ism prevail when there is no logical reason for hope completes Moby-Dick on an ambivalent note that mirrors the ambiguity of all that has gone before.

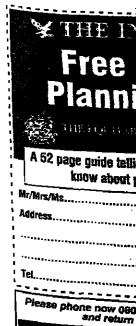
Melville is never greater as an artist than when, unlike Ahab, he allows the heart to resist the head. At a cerebral level, though, he was one of those who can believe in the reality of evil but not good: "Though in many of its aspects this visible world seems formed in love, the invisible spheres were formed in fright."

Melville's work will never be popular with readers who feel that a novel must deal primarily with relationships or else display political commitment. But for those who revel in whale-hunting scenes, who thrill to encounters with typhoons, sharks, giant squid and pirates, and who like the brew served up with lashings of St Paul, Kant and Hegel, Moby-Dick will remain one of the wonders of the world.

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But that does not mean that no progress is being made. Engle Star this week slanted selling no-frills. lon-cost personal pension plans by telephone in dire competition with Virgin





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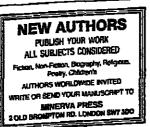


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The second secon

Stanford (Mandarin, £7.99) It seems that the Devil not only has the best tunes but the best books



behaving badly

Jenny Turner delights in a blend of caritas and eros

Original Bliss by A L Kennedy, Cape, £14.99

o the men you see Saround you bore you? Well, you have an imagination, don't you, woman? Why not conjure a better one out of thin air? In her last novel, So I Am Glad, A L Kennedy tried just such a thought-experiment and came up with Cyrano de Bergerac, swordsman, poet and dignified loser extraordinaire. The result was interesting if a bit one-sided. what with Cyrano being long dead. She tries the spell again in her new book, and women everywhere will thrill to what she has made: Edward E Gluck, popular scientist and self-help guru. A cyberneticist and neurobiologist, with an adorable fixation on the Jimmy Stewart of It's A Wonderful Life, he is a hunky, brilliant and kindly mixture of Richard Dawkins and Steve Jones. A couple of years ago, I had an argument with a colleague about Kennedy's books. I loved the image of life they suggested: a woman, probably in Glasgow, pottering about on her lonesome ownsome, dreaming of nuns and penguins, worrying

about God. This colleague, however, smelt a rat. He felt that ALK, if she wasn't careful, was headed for emotional anorexia. Her and her bloody feelings, he said: all she does is cling to her precious feelings. He didn't say that what she needed was a proper going-over, but that was what he meant. Two years on, and which of us is winning? Well, me, obviously. And him, too; to stop.
Along with the shuffling and the worrying about God. because we were both right in our way. When ALK started publishing in the early 1990s, it was wonderful to read a young woman writer who didn't labour at being hip and raunchy. The early Kennedy wrote about charity, about the insights we may find if we

plug our ears against the

l-want-l-want clamour of erotic desire. But it would, as my red-blooded colleague saw, have been terrible if she had staved the way she started out. It isn't healthy to miss out completely on eros. to skim it off. But you won't be able to It's also a bit vain. And, anyway, eros has a habit of outing itself, no matter how hard you suppress it, in strange and twisted ways. Edward alive in a way Her new book is made up of ten short stories and a long one. The shorter pieces are faint and provisional, like pencil-sketches for the big the current fashion for picture vet to come. And pretty thin and stupid, then she does it: "Original Bliss", the 150-page title story. Here is the woman shuffling about in Glasgow. The worries about God. Dessert recipes and Open



A L Kennedy: stylish Scot sharp little obiter dicta about why Scottish people just can't help being stylish and why modern dance just can't help being crap. And the bottomicss need for eros, and its diversion into perversion. "Original Bliss" is a revelation. It's the best piece of writing A L Kennedy has

yet done. Edward E Gluck is an excellent guy, properly man-sized, big of brain and heart and wit. Only Edward, as the heroine discovers, has a bit of a problem. He is addicted to really nasty hard-core porn. He likes pictures of women being fucked by two men simultaneously: "On video. they pulse in and out of time, like something feeding, a fuck parasite." He likes pictures of women being fucked by dogs. He can only get off, and is compelled to get off ever more furiously, on pictures of women being hurt. He hates himself for doing it. But not even his self-help guru resources can show him how

there has always been a streak of violent sexual fantasy in Kennedy's writing. It's been there in both her novels, although readers seem to choose to ignore it. And it's very much there in Stella Does Tricks, the ALKscripted movie shortly to be released. This streak has never been well integrated into the body of her writing. It has sat like the scum on the top of a soup-pan, which is why it has been so easy for the dainty-stomached reader skim off the violent sexual fantasy in this one. And that is a wonderful thing: it brings Cyrano never managed. It brings the heroine who tries

to love him full-bloodedly alive as well. It also makes kink-by-numbers stories look though that is an incidental concern. Caritas without eros is empty; eros without caritas is blind. I've never been so delighted to leave an

argument only half-right.

Inventing men Island in the stream of history

Melissa Benn welcomes a moving first novel from a veteran political thinker

When Memory Dies by A Sivanandan, Arcadia, £9.99

Sivanandan is one of the few political writers who really matter in this coun-Atry: a polemicist who loves language like a poet, a deadly serious writer with the lightest of touches. In his most frequent form, the essay, he is without peer, able to command attention from that first declarative sentence. For him, the essay is both a kind of war and the place for tender argument.

Like that other great black writer, C L R James, Sivanandan director of the Institute of Race Relations and founder editor of its journal Race and Class - is largely a prophet without honour in this. his adopted country. Yet he has a formidable international reputation. Essays such as "From Resistance to Rebellion" stand as definitive accounts of black people's struggle in postwar Britain. Thinking globally, Sivanandan was one of the first writers to consider the implications of the new technology

and its impact on the third world.

Again like "CLR", this country's relative blindness to his talents has less to do with his "colour" than his politics. He remains that most unfashionable of creatures: a socialist who believes in the persistence of class. In the past decade, when it has become the vogue to discuss British blackness in terms of "identity", Sivanandan has stubbornly continued to address material as well as cultural realities.

Now, at the age of 70, he has written this profoundly simple, profoundly complex first novel about three generations of Sri Lankan men, each shaped by the politics of their time. While the narrative is carried forward by father, son and grandson, the true central character is surely Sri Lanka: a country like many others, deformed by colonialism, potentially liberated by independence, then deformed once again by "ethnic conflict".

Political novels come in many forms, but there is a fundamental difference between the writer who works from within a political faith and the one who describes from the outside, James Baldwin was at his brilliant best when he wrote from his knowledge of, and connection to, black anger. At the other extreme, Joe Klein's clever, humane but cool Primary Colors

epitomises the outsider approach. But the insider novel always risks piety and didacticism - a suspicion that the author is moving characters around a chess board. chasing positions without organic purpose. That Sivanandan largely avoids these traps is down not just to his own craft but to his certainty that political faith is indivisible from both intellect and feeling.

This indivisibility also justifies the novel's realistic simplicity. Irony, cynicism, clever switches in time or character, would make no sense here. A person belongs to their place, their family, their history and the choices that they make. For this is, above all, a novel about the importance of action.

For Saha, the young man from

the dry north of his country born in the early part of the century, it is his move from a rural village to the city of Columbo - his contact with the petty glamour and snob-bery of colonial rule and with working-class resistance to it - that shapes his story. For Saha's son Rajan, born in the tiny town where his father is made sub-postmaster. it is the wonder and absurdity of a British education that deeply affects him: "The economics professor went on and on about apples and oranges and marginal utility.... But it was the professor of poetry who grabbed me most...the raw feel of Donne and Keats and Hopkins and Eliot...answered to my waking sensibilities about religion and sex and fantasy and despair." Yet colo-

nialism corrupts everything. The flowers in the garden of rich relatives who might fix Rajan up with a job disgust him. "The orchids and the imported roses" were needed "to remind them of their wealth, like they needed poor relations".

The final story rests with Vijay. It is his destiny to make sense of the vicious battles between Tamil and Sinhalese that have torn Sri Lanka apart and pushed Sivanandan, a Tamil, out of the country in 1958.

A militant opponent of the crude nationalism that sets Sinhalese against Tamil, Vijay has his most painful conflict with his sensual but cold wife Manel, who despises his politics. Husband and wife argue and reconcile a dozen times, until hatred and misunderstanding dissolve into indifference. Looking at his wife. Vijay realises "This was who she really was, this was who she had always been....He felt gen-

tle towards her at last." But this is not just a book about Sri Lanka. The struggles it touches upon, both moral and political, face us all: the battle between our hunger for love or learning or success and our need, even passion, for integrity. In this sense the book does have a message, a direction. The author hovers above his creations, taking each firmly but kindly through their moral maze.

This is a book of, and about, many lifetimes. Towards the end Vijay reflects on his family's bloody heritage, concluding that "They did not divide things, events, people into what would make them happy and what wouldn't. Everything was life. The important thing was to go with the grain of it."

Here is the notion of organic

unity made explicit. And yet you probably have to wait until you are 70 to risk such a simple and complex sentence - to risk the reader grasping the unsentimental meaning that underlies the lucid thought.



Vicious battles in Sri Lanka pushed Sivanandan out of the country

All at sea with Mystic Meg

Jeanette Winterson's career has become a genuine tragedy says Felipe Fernández-Armesto

Gut Symmetries by Jeanette Winterson, Granta, £15.99

Jeanette Winterson's new novel, however, the villain's appetite fails him and his wife - or what is left of her - runs off with his former mistress, after plastic surgery, for a lesbian happy ending. At one level, this is an issues-novel, but the cannibalism-issue and surgery-issue are only raised in the last pages. And there are only three speaking characters, though a few others appear sketchily by way of recall.

The best feature is the economy with which the triangular relationship - husband, wife, concubine to both - is handled. So even with help from generous designers, the author needs a lot of padding to fill a short

Some of it - about 60 pages' worth - is provided by Winterson's familiar obsessions: tarot, lesbian upbringing, father-fixation, the strings because it reminds him of

yoy meets girl. Boy eats girl. In beastliness of men. The heroines reminisce tediously about their births and childhoods, like mixed-up novelists in therapy. This is good for maybe 80 pages more. There is a fair amount of straightforward tautology. A small but much-hyped contribution is made by allusions to the "Grand Universal Theory" trailed in the title: one of the lesbians works on antiquarks, but as the author's knowledge of the subject seems to be drawn mainly from The Physics of Immortality, she might as well be an expert on knitting or cookery.

Winterson reads theoretical physics with help from the tarot pack. She is an adept of post-scientific holism. Her efforts bear the same relation to physics as Mystic Meg's to astronomy. If her book were more readable, it would be suitable for serialisation in Good Houseanalytics, the burdens of religious keeping. "Jove only works on super-

spaghetti', said Signora Rosetti": Jeanette Winterson or Jilly Cooper? "The hard-hat, bull-nose building blocks of matter...have to be returned as an infinite web of relationships": Jeanette Winterson or Tony Blair? Not only politicians mix clichés to mask clap-trap.

As always, Winterson shows she can use language deftly; but she is a wordsmith with nothing to say. Some of her strategic devices are clever. There is a genuinely intriguing subplot in which one of the characters is pursued by Jews intent on discovering a diamond secreted inside her against Nazi depredations. This helps keep the reader going through the studgier passages of padding. Shipboard settings of various kinds are used at intervals to create capsule-like frameworks which can heighten drama or suspense. Disappointingly, Winterson's inattention to detail spoils these promising critics disposed to take it seriously.

efforts: her ignorance of routine at sea makes ludicrous a crucial stormtossed sequence on a small boat.

Like the science, the maritime motif becomes a maelstrom for the writer: she is obviously all at sea. The mystery of the diamond is made haffling by confused physiology. The dénouement is a drearily extempo-

rised deus ex machina. There are some admirably amusvince because the characters speak in barely distinguishable voices: ent seems exhausted. short sentences, excised main verbs. metaphors tortured into daring compression. All fiction is autobiographical, but it is confusing for the reader if everybody in the book is that one of the heroines is called Alluvia we wonder whether the whole effort is self-satire - a joke on

Jeanette Winterson is her own best critic. In this novel she confides that lesbianism is narcissism - lust for a mirror image. She seems to have lost the ability to stand back from her work, judge it dispassionately and discard the rubbish.

Her career has become a genuine tragedy - failure worked on ability by hubris. She could be a first-rate journalist, a slick stylist who knows ing dialogues in the flip manner of a little about a lot. Instead, she has Delano Ames but they fail to con- condemned herself to frustration as a novelist, in an art for which her tal-

There must be something, apart from tarot and lesbianism, which she could write about with deep knowledge and understanding. If she sticks to ships and physics, she is based on the author. When we hear doomed to trip up over her own pretensions. Meanwhile, she imitates her characterisation of new physics, "belching at the dinner table of

Paperbacks -

University broadcasts and



By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

(Picador, £7.99) The wonderfully odd, compulsive autobiography (originally titled Jackdaw Cake) by the maestro of travel writing has been expanded by 50 pages in this new edition. The extraordinary facts of his long life - a childhood with spooky spiritualist parents in Enfield, marriage into a family of Sicilian exiles with Mafia connections are greatly enhanced by Lewis's deadpan delivery, illuminated by flashes of black humour. New material includes a spell in Italy in the Sixties: a typically Lewisian Arcadia tainted by drugs, kidnapping and poor hygiene.

I Came, I Saw by Norman Lewis

The Devil: A Biography by Peter

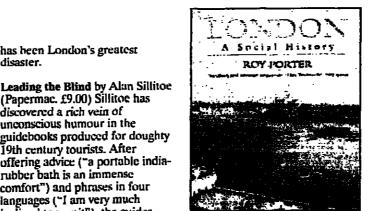
as well. This sober, intelligent account reveals that the Devil is entirely a Christian creation (he is scarcely mentioned in the Old Testament), made "credible and compelling" by Milton. But diabolic parallels have appeared through human history. Stanford traces the various incarnations of the dark presence from the Crusades and the Cathar Hercsy to Waco, Texas, and the Manson "Family". Satan, he astutely suggests, "lives on as a way of dealing with [the] unspeakable, unimaginable or intangible."

London: A Social History by Roy Porter (Penguin, £15.00) Piquant as a Hogarth etching, every page of this vast panorama glitters with luxuriant detail. Fused Roman coins testify to the fury of Boadica's revolt in AD61, while in 1666 the Lord Mayor remarked of another great fire, "a woman could piss it out". Porter suggests that London's "hour on the stage" lasted from 1570 to 1986. encompassing 18th century pleasures - an average of two pints of gin per week for every living soul - and hectic Victorian industry. In a furious conclusion, he insists that Thatcher's

has been London's greatest

(Papermac, £9.00) Sillitoe has discovered a rich vein of unconscious humour in the guidebooks produced for doughty 19th century tourists. After offering advice ("a portable indiarubber bath is an immense comfort") and phrases in four languages ("I am very much inclined to vomit"), the guides plied readers with staggering detail. In Germany, we are told the exact wounds suffered by Gustavus Adolphus in 1632 ("five gunshots, two cuts, one stab"). while in Karnchi we learn that a British officer crossed a crocodile tank by running across their backs. The armchair traveller won't find a more enjoyable read

A User's Guide to the Millennium by J G Ballard (Flamingo, £6.99) Culled from over 30 years output, this breezy assemblage of essays and reviews fizzles with subversive intelligence, More than footnotes to a brilliant, disturbing ocurre, this is critical journalism of a high order. While damning Star Wars and devaluing Joyce's Ulysses



("curiously lacking in imagination"), Ballard lauds Blue Velvet and Sade's The 120 Days of Sodom ("a black cathedral"). A brief coda to Empire of the Sun is a highlight of the book. Following his bizarre childhood, the outre has become the ordinary for Ballard. Across an astonishing range, his ironic slant is ceaselessly stimulating.

Tchaikovsky by Anthony Holden (Bantam, £9.99) No composer fulfills romantic expectations of the tortured artist better than Tchaikovsky - and none offers the biographer richer pickings in terms of mystery, scandal and tragedy on an operatic scale. His life was marked by manic creativity and depressive moods, a The Thames from Richmond House by Canaletto

string of homosevual affairs, a disastrous marriage followed by a breakdown, a doorned infatuation with his 13-year-old nephew and an ambiguous death - was it cholera, as officially stated, or suicide? Anthony Holden weighs the evidence with admirable sanity, and concludes that Tchaikovsky did indeed kill himself at the behest of a secret "court of honour" rather than face public prosecution for sodomy.

Driving My Father by Susan Wicks (Faber, £6.49) This sensitive family memoir by the poet Susan Wicks charts the decline of her ciderly father following her mother's death. It's in a similar vein to Blake Morrison's And When Did You Last See Your Father?, but its tone is warmer and more touching. Where Morrison was objective and detached, Wicks's prose shimmers with subjectivity. She has a poet's ability to invest emotional meaning in inaminate objects and to capture the intensity of the individual moment, whether she's giving us a brilliant shard of childhood memory or suddenly catching herself looking into the future.



The books you listen to

think of audiotapes as a poor substitute for books, here are two much-betterheard-than-read classics. First, a splendid pairing of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in Bold Venture (Hodder, 2hrs. £8.50): their classic 1950s radio series about piracy in Havana. It oozes 1950s nostalgia but keeps you

To shake up those who still

clutching the edge of your seat. Second, an unabridged Canterbury Tales (Penguin, 9hrs. £19.99). Neville Coghill's sensitive translation (readers include Richard Briers, and Pruncila Scales), reminds us how much we can still learn from Chaucer about poetic English and medieval society.

Christina Hardyment

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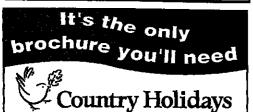
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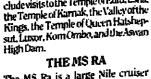
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even born in 1967, mingle in Golden Gate clause in her lease. Today a sign in the house

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inspection it stands not for Remember the Acid Dream, but for Residents Against Top of any psychedelic heritage tour is 710 Drugs. An infamous palace of rock and roll bauchery was the Jefferson Airplane's throughout 1967. It was famously busted for mansion at 2400 Fulton Street. The Airplane were always the aristocrats of San Francisco

scene of her excesses, "RAD". On closer

drugs at the end of that summer in a police rock, with a big record company advance which they invested in an imposing fourstorey house with Doric columns. The opera singer Caruso sheltered in the house during the 1906 earthquake, but in the Airplane's heyday the mansion rocked with infamous parties, often lasting days at a time. One celebrated bash is pictured on the front of the band's album Bless Its Pointed Little Head, with bassist Jack Casady passed out with his hand still gripped around a bottle. With views over both Golden Gate Park and the ocean, the mansion occupies one of

the prime real estate sites in the city, and the Airplane who once sung "up the revolution" eventually made a very capitalist profit on the Another much-visited location is the imposing mansion overlooking Buena Vista Park where the Steve Miller Band made their early recordings in a basement studio, before the

house was later owned by ex-Hollie Graham.

believe, wrongly, that it is the home he sang about so smugly in Our House "with two cats in the yard", with Crosby, Stills and Young. If Golden Gate Park was the birthplace of the summer of love, then Buena Vista Park at the other end of the Haight was its final resting place. The dream was too good to last and by October 1967 hard drugs and street crime were rife in the area. The Diggers organised a mock funeral in the park, at which they buried the sign from the Psychedelic Shop at 1535 Haight Street, the world's first such emporium, where half of the space was

given over to a meditation room called the Where the Haight hippies once burnt their incense and contemplated the nature of the

n 14 January, 1967, more than Park, strumming guitars and smoking dope. next door tells those who come to gape at the cosmos, you can today buy a take-away pizza. By 1968 most of the musicians had moved out of the Haight, many of them the short distance across Golden Gate Bridge to the clean air and giant redwoods of Marin County, Just over the bridge is the harbour of Sausalito. the original setting of Otis Red "Sittin" On The Dock Of The Bay". The soul singer had become a hippie hero following his storming appearance at the Monterey pop festival and in August 1967 was playing a week-long residency in San Francisco. When his downtown hotel was besieged by female fans he was invited to stay on one of the ramshackle houseboats in the dock and the result was his best - and last - song. He died in a plane crash three months later.

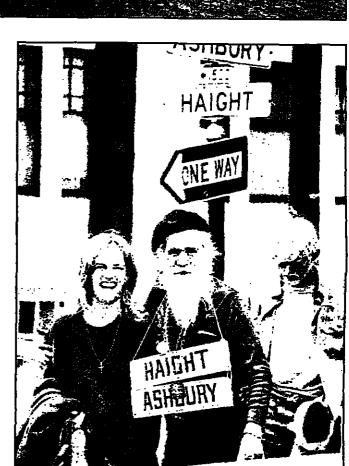
San Francisco has always been a city rich in musical association. Al Jolson died here after recording a radio show with Bing Crosby, and Billie Holiday was busted for possession of narcotics. The suite where she was raided at the Mark Twain Hotel now commands a premium rate and is decorated with press cuttings of her arrest.

Fittingly, the birthplace of flower power also hosted the death of punk when the Sex Pistols split up in the city after an epic fight between Johnny Rotten, Sid Vicious and manager Malcolm McLaren at the Miyako Hotel.

singer went on to stardom as the Space Cowboy, the Gangster of Love and The Joker. The Yet, musically, it will always be the summer of love for which San Francisco is best remembered. Anyone who was ever briefly touched with the spirit of 1967 will find Nash. It is much photographed by fans who Haight-Ashbury an evocative trip down memory lane. Get out the tie dye and the bell-bottoms, wipe the dust off those scratchy old records - and be sure to wear some flowers in your hair.

> If you're going to San Francisco ... Go now. Nigel Williamson flew just before the

latest fares cut, with TWA via St Louis for £346 return; he stayed at the Californian Hotel (001 415 885 2500) in the city centre for \$89 (£53) per night. Now, you can fly non-stop from London Heathrow to San Francisco on British Airways (0345 222111), United (0181-990 9900) or Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747). The latter has a "MegaSaver" fare of £307 return, including tax, if you book before 25 January.



Student travel writing competition.....11

in Tokyo13 Gardening15

Sumo wrestling

Top: San Francisco, the pot of gold that lies at the end of

Above: 1967 summer of love now ranks in local history alongside the 1849 gold rush and the 1906 earthquake Almost every street around the Haight has tales to tell of rock 'n' roll craziness PHOTOGRAPH: CURBIN



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All across the nation

raid that marked the beginning of the end of

the hippic dream. The Dead moved out in

March the following year. A sign put up by the owners asks the legion of "Dead heads"

not to ring the doorbell. Those wishing to pay

tribute to the late Jerry Garcia are invited to

leave flowers: "If you do respect Jerry and

believe in peace and love then you will

respect our wishes and good karma will fol-

a two-minute walk from the Dead's house,

was the Straight Theater. As a farewell to the

area, the Dead parked two flatbed trucks

across the street, ran a cable from inside and

played the free concert pictured on their Live

Dead album, The theatre was chaotically run

as a hippic community centre and didn't have

a dance licence, so the bands playing there

had to pretend to be giving dancing lessons.

Santana were among those who got their start

here. Today a "thrift store" (charity shop)

handle, a thin, green artery running parallel

to the Haight and leading into Golden Gate

Park. Here the Diggers, a group of anarchosyndicalists, dispensed free meals to hungry hippies, and it was also here in June 1967 that

Jimi Hendrix made a legendary impromptu

appearance with equipment borrowed from

tales to tell of rock'n'roll craziness.

Almost every street around the Haight has

At 112 Lyon Street, Janis Joplin lived with

Country Joe McDonald, Unsurprisingly, her

rowdy lifestyle did not endear her to the

neighbours and Jan's was evicted early in

1968. Yet it was not sex, drugs or even foud

music that were her downfall here: Joplin was

thrown out for a breach of the "no pets"

At the other end of Cole Street is the Pan-

On the corner of Haight and Cole Street,

low you in your life."

stands on the site.

the Jefferson Airplane.

20,000 hippies gathered in San Fran- There are more ponytails than at a gymkhana

cisco's Golden Gate Park for the and sufficient acres of swirling tie-dye to

first "human be-in". The event induce a permanent migraine.

a date which now ranks in local history with the 1849 gold rush and the 1906 earthquake. Ashbury, a large, rambling house where the Grateful Dead lived in communal style

marked the beginning of the summer of love.

The city is now preparing to celebrate the 30th

anniversary of that extraordinary year of

are met by an exhibition of images of Jerry

Garcia. Janis Joplin and other icons of the

flower power era. Every guidebook to the city

contains a eulogy to "the spirit of '67" and a

trip to the Haight-Ashbury district is high

(pun intended) on any tourist trail. A few sad

and notable casualties apart, it seems that old

hippies never die; they simply become tourist

The official police report on the "human be-

in" complained of "hippies high on LSD

obstructing and creating a nuisance". Dozens

were bundled away in paddy wagons while the Grateful Dead, Quicksilver Messenger Ser-

vice and Jefferson Airplane played for free and Timothy Leary, the LSD guru, chanted

"turn on, tune in, drop out". Over the com-

ing months, to the constemation of the city

authorities, an estimated 200,000 young

people heeded the call and moved into the

area around Haight and Ashbury Streets, a

short stroll from Golden Gate Park. Hash-

bury, as it inevitably was known, became the

Some were drawn by the drugs and the

"free love"; others had an interest in Eastern

mysticism. But above all they were drawn by

the music. In addition to the Dead, the Airplane and Quicksilver there were Country

Joe and the Fish, the Steve Miller Band.

Santana and Janis Joplin, all living, playing

and getting high within a few blocks of each

other. It was an extraordinary flowering of

Today the sites associated with flower

power's brief blooming have become much

visited. Fiftysomethings who look as if they

took one trip too many, and kids who weren't

hippie capital of the world.

musical talent.

It's a far cry from the scene 30 years ago.

Visitors arriving at San Francisco airport

psychedelic drugs and music.

... there's a strange vibration. Nigel Williamson revisits San Francisco

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Airplane '97: 'At 29,000ft pull the four levers back gently until things quieten down a bit. then get the map out

f you were paying of the in-flight magazine Whispers. attention last week, you will you will find have read of the silly instructions for flying New Year air fares. It the British will take the average Aerospace 146, the British worker under airline's only plane. a fortnight to earn An extract: "At a £700, enough for a suitable height, say return flight to 29,000 feet, pull the Australia on four levers back Britannia Airways gently until things plus a weekend trip quieten down a bit, to New York on then get the map out to find the way to Virgin Atlantic (a 747, not a balloon). your destination." Before you seize

bargains like these, Next Christmas T shall send my wishthough, you should be aware of some of list to Continental the pitfalls of Airlines rather than modern aviation. Santa. Diane Dunn Take Rostov-on-Don of Wimbledon writes: în southern Russia; a "Last August I was bulletin released by booked to travel with Airports Council Continental from International Newark to Gatwick. cheerfully relates However, due to that "each week is overbooking I accepted a \$700 full of surprises". The airport director. voucher to stand down and travel with Parshakov, tells of Virgin to Heathrow a one incident: couple of hours later.

"A mix-up at Gatwick resulted in passengers had left, my receiving my baggage many phone grenade. Fortunately calls and two days without the fuse, but later. I wrote a letter otherwise perfectly to the chairman of Continental in the heat of the moment. you should ever find Time passed and I

yourself in the sort forgot about it.
"A few days ago I of in-flight emergency beloved received a letter with a fulsome apology, an affirmation of a of Hollywood disaster movies, and are required to fly commitment to the aircraft. But if it customer care - and happens, just hope a travel voucher for that you are aboard a further \$200." These days, that will the Bournemouthbased airline almost get you to Palmair. On page 30 New York and back.

The high points of Belgium

Stephen Wood takes a one-day ski package to the Ardennnes



wasn't mine, either, when I decided to see off the old year on skis: I wanted to go to Scotland. But December's cold fronts had taken a wrong turning somewhere over Poland, and Scotland's snow was delivered to England by mistake. The bad news on the Scottish ski "Hotline" forced me to look elsewhere.

The specialist ski travel agencies I telephoned were bemused by my next plan. They had never organised a one-day ski package to the Alps. And, politely enough, they made it clear that they were not going

A little detective work solved the prob-

from the east - but by which route? Ignoring Michael Fish and studying the bottom right-hand corner of the television screen, I discovered that it was travelling via the Low Countries. One phone call to Belgium, and I had the good news: the snow was excellent and the forecast poor.

My new plan formed. The dirtcheap (£49) overnight

London-Brussels route by train, ferry and ficult patch was the wicked moguls undertrain would get me into a hire-car (not so cheap, at £69 for the day) soon after 8am. and I'd be in the Ardennes for a late breakfast; coming back I would have time for dinner in Brussels before catching the 11pm to London. The day-trip Eurostar offer to Brussels (£49 return, and bookable only until Monday) was no good to me because the earliest train gets in only at 11.26am. But the overnight schedule was perfect: leaving London at 10pm I could spend the whole next day skiing and be back home at 7.15am the morning after.

Ski in the Low Countries? The majority of you (I stand almost alone in my affection for Belgium) will have spotted an obvious error here. As you know it, Belgium is heavily into chips, light on famous people, and as flat as a bored Briton driving through it to get somewhere more interesting. But the Ardennes forest, in the south-eastern, French-speaking corner of the country between Liège and the German border, is a vast, rolling ocean of pine trees; and though they hardly exceed 700m in altitude, the hills have nine "alpine" ski areas, and a further 49 offering other winter sports, mainly cross-country skiing.

I headed first to Thier des Rexhons, just outside the town of Spa - where the water comes from. At 540m, it offers little more than one long nursery slope, plus one of everything else: lift, restaurant, ski-hire shop. The coincidence of snowfalls within

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elgium isn't most people's first the New Year's holiday had left the piste choice as a skiing destination. It in poor shape, with a fair amount of vegetable and mineral matter poking through; but the ambience on the slope was terrific. There were lots of children and beginners, no flash skiers or snowboarders.

You pay by the ride on the lift, which runs along its own charming forest track lined with saplings. It costs just under £4 for 10 rides - as many as you would want for a slope which is plain and simple, and takes just over a minute for a direct descent. Only one lift means, of course, that the fun stops if it stops; unfortunately it broke down in the afternoon as I was returning my hired skis (cost: £8 per day).

Thier des Rexhons is a really good lem. I knew the cold weather was coming place for nervous beginners. But the lack of hazards - even gradi-

ent - would soon become tiresome for intermediates; and the same is also true of the slightly more challenging Mont des Brumes nearby. Here the 1,000m run, in a big bite taken out of the forest, steepens sharply in the middle before flattening out on to a nursery slope. The fun, icy on one side and turning vegetable on the other; but the most dif-

neath the main drag lift. Mont des Brumes is so popular that it can charge £1.15 merely for access to the ski area, and the surface had fored from the crowds.

In an ideal world, I'd tell you about more of the Ardennes ski areas. Unfortunately, the tourist office's resort map may be the most worthless document produced since Neville Chamberlain arrived home from Munich. It is easy to read and with helpful symbols - but doesn't show where the ski areas actually are. I spent a precious hour driving around Malmedy hunting one which had seemingly changed both its location and its name. When you are half-anight short of sleep, such frustrations hurt. In that state, all emotions become more

intense. The forest of the Ardennes is always beautiful; but with snow-covered trees beneath a huge, pink sunset it seemed miraculous. The inner glow began to fade only in Brussels, as the 11pm train fell behind schedule and the temperature fell towards minus 10; it disappeared completely on the ferry, under the onslaught of a herd of French school kids determined to enjoy being up so late. I got home very short of sleep, and feeling a bit stupid. One day's skiing? I must have been mad.

For snow conditions at Thier des Rexhons. call 00 32 87 77 30 28; allow for a little exaggeration. Next Wednesday's travel section of The Tabloid is devoted to skating in Belgium.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

Alexander

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we found a hand

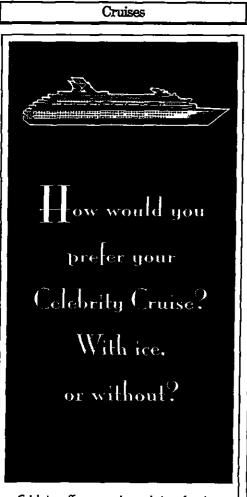
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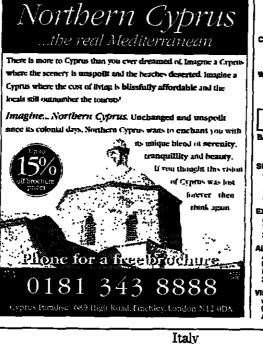
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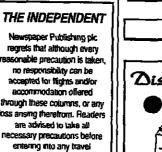
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حكاب الاحل

poll of a few friends of mine showed they have widely differing memories

of their first day at university. Inex-

plicably, I remember one phrase

from the address by the Vice-Chancellor to

new students. He described the city of

Durham, our new home, as "a jewel in the

muck-heap". Although this is rather damn-

ing of the countryside immediately around.

his description of the city was an under-

statement.

If at all possible, Durham is best ap-

proached by rail. As you pull into the station, the view of the medieval cathedral is stun-

ning. The cathedral can be seen from almost

anywhere in the city, the uninterrupted

panorama from my first college room was

unblemished, as most of the new building in

The historic heart of the city is built on a

peninsula, gouged out by a loop in the river

Wear, and densely wooded along its banks.

The river separates the old centre from the

rest of the city, and keeps it aloof from

For centuries, city life revolved around Palace Green and the few cobbled streets

leading from it. This is a village green on a

grand scale. The cathedral and castle face

each other at opposite ends; the original uni-

versity library runs between them: on the

fourth side is a row of alms houses now con-

For most students, the cathedral is just a

landmark in the city. I remember it mainly

as the place to go for afternoon tea. These

days there are other places to go - and no

doubt prices have gone up - but when I was

an undergraduate, a scone, jam, cream and

a cup of tea in the cathedral's Undercroft

Although the bell, chiming out every 15

minutes, still regulates the pace of life in

Durham, the cathedral itself no longer dom-

inates life as it would have done in the days

of Saints Bede and Cuthbert. That honour

now goes to the university, which employs a

large percentage of the population, and

owns many of the city's oldest buildings. But town and gown are inextricably entwined: the

university was founded when the bishops

donated their official residence to become

University College - now known to all stu-

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Cathy Packe remembers her student days in Durham

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the colleges hold an annual ball, some more

formal than others. I remember the ball at

the castle as the highlight of the social cal-

endar, with champagne served in the court-

yard, dinner in the great hall, and a cartoon

From Palace Green, cobbled streets tumble

down and join up with The Bailey and Sad-

Place. Many of the old houses provide stu-

dent accommodation or lecture theatres;

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projected on to the keep.

dents remain in the castle, living at the most the study of Duncow Cottage and being

Year's holiday had left the had a fair amount of h Tear's holiday had left the halape, with a fair amount of the mineral matter poking through mbience on the slope was left re lots of children and heems. re lots of entiaren and heging-ikiers or snowhoarders, sy by the ride on the lift what is its own charming forces is h saplings. It costs just under n saprings. A consequent under ies — as many as you would be tes - as many as you would use which is plain and ample as over a minute for a the Only one lift means of our un stops if it stops: unfortunit down in the afternoon as le 3 m) hired skis (cost 48 per b

des Reshons is a really for nervous beginners. But thek of hazards - even gar ent - nould some k court are suffered for the mediates and the say is a see true of the slight more challenging the des Brimes neam Here the Lumban nate a big bite taken on. the trest steeps sharp's in the most before hatteningous to a nursery slope E middle cotton was qu

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well as the students' union building. Dunclin House. Events here were at the opposite end of the social scale from those in the eastle. The surroundings were austere in daylight and cheerless at night - even under the flashing nights of the Friday discos. It is difficult dler Street, which leads into the Market to imagine that students still go there, as I did, for a hip night out. But maybe small groups of female undergraduates do still Gradually, other colleges were founded, others are homes for the academic staff. I dance around their handbags, while spotty and the university is still expanding, but stu- particularly remember peering every day into youths inevitably eye them up.

amazed by the sheer number of books on the

shelves, and the piles of papers on the floor.

the Sixties several new colleges were built, as

Not all of Durham is ancient, of course. In

This area is ageing badly, with the concrete

now streaked and dirty. But as a place to look out from, rather than to look at, Dunelm House is hard to beat. Durham is a magnificent place to be a student - small enough to be manageable, but with the facilities of a larger university; and

a beautiful setting in which to spend three years of one's life. If I have a regret about my student days, it is that student life - and this probably applies anywhere - tends to be one-dimensional, which meant there was an awful lot of Durham that I missed. Given the chance to be a student again, I wouldn't hesitate to

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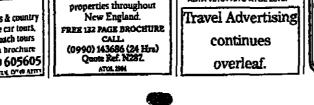
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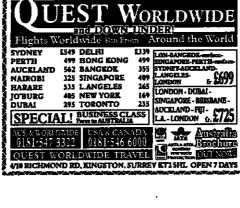
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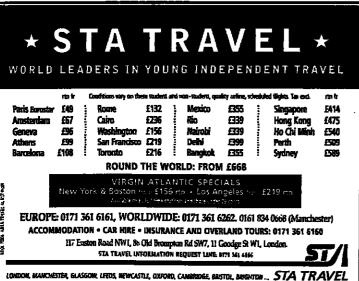
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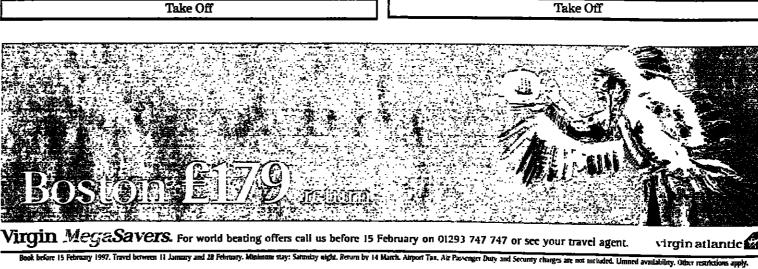
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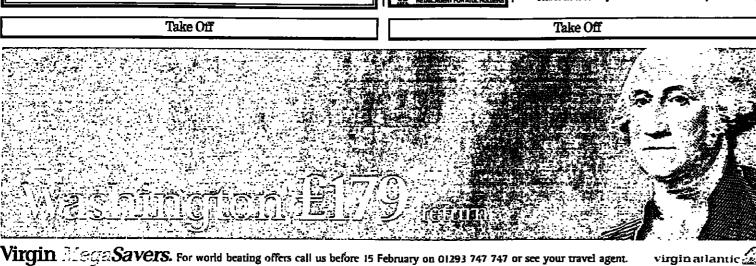
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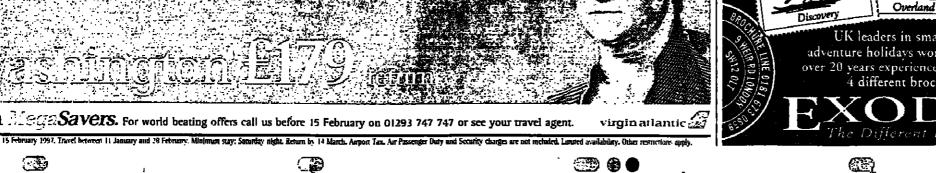
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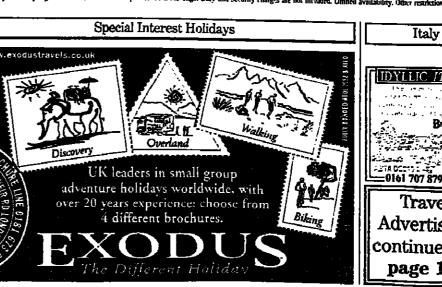














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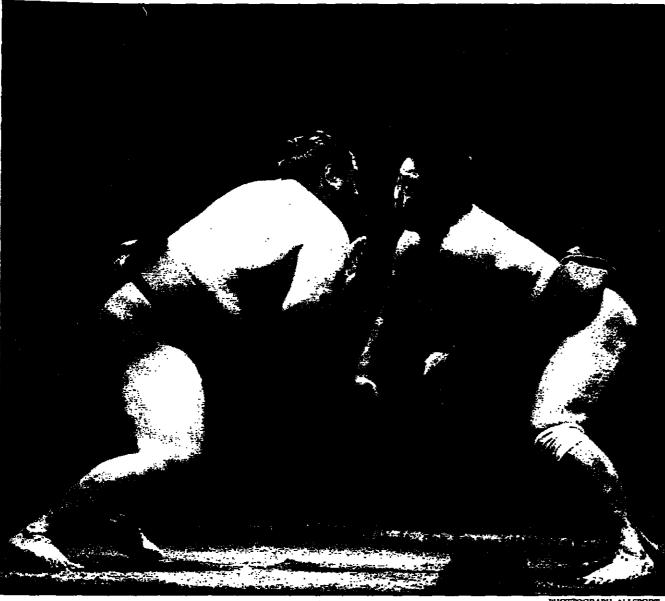
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Long, hot sumo

By Kate Mikhail



rchaic, ritualistic and stereotypically Japanese, Sumo wrestling, could easily leave you cold. But experience the energy of a packed auditorium, witness the spectacle of two huge human masses hurtling headlong into each other and you'll be hooked - transfixed in a mixture of awe and disbelief.

When Japanese friends sat me down in front of the television set to watch a Sumo match I can't say I was much impressed; and quickly tired of what seemed a very brief and futile scrap between two staggeringly fat wrestlers. But given that I was visiting Tokyo during one of only six annual tournaments, I decided that seeing this major cultural event in the flesh - and loads of it -could not be missed. I hoped it might even give me a better understanding of

the Japanese psyche.
Tokyo's National Sumo Stadium, in Ryogoku, eastern Tokyo, is a few minutes from the Metro (Ryogoku stop) and towers over an otherwise uniform urban landscape. The build-up to the match begins well before you step inside - walking from the Metro to the stadium, you are more than likely to find yourself accompanied by one or two contestants who stroll nonchalantly along with a certain arrogance and presence that only such an unearthly bulk can achieve.

The thought of these men living and training in their Sumo "stables" makes them seem in even more of another world than they already appear as they thunder down the street.

Sumo giants, who weigh an average of 300lb (21 stone), are considered national heroes and sex symbols. They earn big money, command respect and, being such a prestigious and wealthy catch, tend to marry the most petite and stunning of Japanese women.

Having said that, their image took a serious pummelling this year, with allegations of corruption, tax evasion, yakuza (Mafia) connections and fightrigging. Fans were devastated, particularly as the claims came from an exchamp, Onaruto, who mysteriously died shortly before he was due to give a press conference - but not before he wrote his book, Bout-Rigging, which accused the yakuza of buying wrestlers and rigging matches.

Walking into the stadium was like entering a temple. Far-off chanting led me to where the action was taking couple of hours at least, there was place: a vast space with seats reaching plenty of room in all the choice corp-

Weighty matters

Getting there: The cheapest way to reach the Japanese capital is on an air ticket to Australia. For example, Flightbookers (0171-757 2468) has a fare to Sydney via Tokyo of £686 on All Nippon Airways for departures today; you save £60 for mid-week travel, but be warned that availability is limited. You are allowed a stopover in Tokyo en route in wither direction. If you cannot travel to Australia. Čreative Tours (0171-495 1775) sells a discounted fare of £809 non-stop on Japan Airlines.

Getting Sumo tickets: This month's Sumo tournament in Tokyo starts tomorrow and runs to Sunday 26 January. The National Sumo Stadium is in eastern Tokyo. and is very close to Ryogoku, on the JR Sobu line. If you have any problems, the Japan National Tourist Organisation's tourist information centre has staff who speak English and are very helpful (3502 1461).

The next two tournaments in Tokyo are: 9-23 March and 11-25

It is not necessary to get up at the crack of dawn to queue for tickets, as you will invariably be told by everyone you ask. Not, at least, if you go in the first week, or early in the second, before the big players start coming face-toface in the build up to the final battle. Tickets can be bought on the day from the box office, at a cost of only 1,500 yen (£8).

Getting information: Japanese National Tourist Organisation: 5th Floor, 20 Savile Row. London W1X 1AE (0171-734 9638).

up to the gods and down to the central ring where two contestants - looking deceptively diminutive in the distance - squared up to each other, ready to charge. The stadium was largely empty. It was midday at the end of only the first week - which meant that, for a

orate seats which no amount of money

Luckily I'd come equipped with a bento box - this is a tasty Japanese lunch box with rice, vegetables and a choice of meat or fish - so settled down on a floor cushion, chopsticks in hand, eyes glued to the stage to see what happens when an irresistable force hits an

immoveable object. The scene was striking. The medieval splendour and ancient rituals were totally at odds with 20th-century Japan a country where cash machines talk to you and one of the latest female pop stars to be inundated with fan mail is

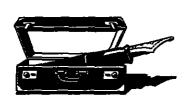
a virtual reality computer creation. The atmosphere inside the stadium is very relaxed and officials are little in evidence, so if you want a better view. your best bet is to grab your camera and stroll down to the front, where you can stand at a safe distance from tumbling wrestlers and eatch all the skill of the fight.

Originally, Sumo was a religious Shinto ceremony carried out for the benefit of the Gods. The ring is made of clay and outlined with a thick. circular rope. The rules are simple: the first to be pushed from the ring or to touch the ground with any part of his body other than the soles of his feet is the loser.

The lead-up to each fight is mesmerising, with lots of salt-throwing to purify the ring and thigh-slapping and foot-stamping to ward off evil spirits, honour the gods and psych out the opposition. The rounds only last a couple of minutes each, but the bursts of energy are fast and furious. Contestants shove, slap, grapple or get a good belt grip to send their opponent flying from the ring.

The battle is fierce, as only those at the top of this profession get any financial rewards and success is far from guaranteed. As the higherranking wrestlers take to the ring, the scats fill up, the tension rises and the crowds, stocked up with copious amounts of food and drink, become increasingly rowdy.

I never actually made it to my seat. which I assume was way up in the gods. and, not knowing one wrestler from the next, did not wait to see who were that day's champions. Instead, I left feeling culturally sated, charged up for a Friday night in the bustling all-night bars of Shinjuku, and with a slightly clearer idea of what makes the Japanese tick.



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Trouble spots

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operator Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) this week launched the first-ever short break to the former Soviet republic of Georgia. A long weekend in the capital, Tbilisi, costs £723 including flights from Heathrow via Istanbul, accommodation and Georgian visa. So far there have been no takers. The current Foreign Office advice for Georgia says: "Visits by road to most parts of Georgia can be made in relative safety, although travel at night outside Tbilisi should be avoided if possible. There have been recent outbreaks of diphtheria in Georgia. Seek medical advice about precautionary measures

before travelling."



The British Tourist Authority wants Tyneside to become a training ground for foreign lager louts.

True, at least according to the BLA's youthoriented magazine. UK The Guide. As well as the usual warnings, eg not to bring illegal drugs into Britain, the Guide makes recommendations that could lead to some truly immoderate

behaviour. The magazine suggests an evening in Newcastle-upon-Tyne: "Saying that Geordies like a drink is like saying the Pope likes to say the occasional

prayer." On an evening out with friends, the Guide advises, you could say "Whey ye bugger man! I'm ganning doon toon to get mortal drunk and find some tottie." A Geordie phrase book is included, with handy lines such as "Hoy up - To be sick" and "Top tottie - Very desirable young lady".

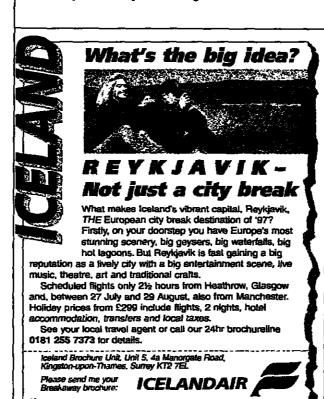
In the pub, you are warned to avoid dominoes ("the world's most boring game") and to steer clear of Vimto, which "Sounds like toilet cleaner and doesn't taste much better",

Should the "tottie" idea go according to plan, a photograph of a condom machine is captioned with: Fancy a quick one? There's more in the pub to try than beer and food, although some things may not be much use after 10 pints of beer."

Perhaps this is why Kevin Keegan decided to leave.







A likely story

"the year 2000 will begin right here - at the leading edge of the sixth Greenwich time signal beep" - The Independent, last Saturday.

various remote Pacific

Mike Perry of Middlesex responds: "I was surprised to read this in Simon Calder's article on Greenwich. I would have expected him to have noticed by now that half the world's time zones are ahead of GMT so at the time of the aforementioned beep it will be lunchtime on 1 January, 2000, in, for

example, New Zealand. "What makes it even more surprising is that last year you printed an article about holiday companies that were offering tours to islands just west of the International Date Line. where the year 2000 really will begin, and when it will still only be midday on 31 December, 1999, in Greenwich.

Simon Calder replies: Mr Perry is right - but, I suggest, we both are. Spacetime is defined from an arbitrary origin at the Royal Observatory. So I reckon Greenwich can cheerfully claim that an arbitrary date

marking an event approximately 2,000 years and miles - away should start on the Greenwich Meridian, the arbitrary line through London SE10.

Mr Perry correctly points out that we carried a story last year on the Chatham Islands, one challenger for the place where 2000 will begin. But I bet that a pint of Spitfire, if available, will cost a lot more in the Chathams than the oresent £1.60 at Hardy's Tavern on the Greenwich Meridian.

Bargain of the week

The new Aer Lingus companion fare on flights from Stansted to Dublin is £109 for two, including tax -£54.50 per person. Better still, for only an extra £25 each, you can travel onwards to Cork, Galway, Kerry, Shannon or Sligo - and

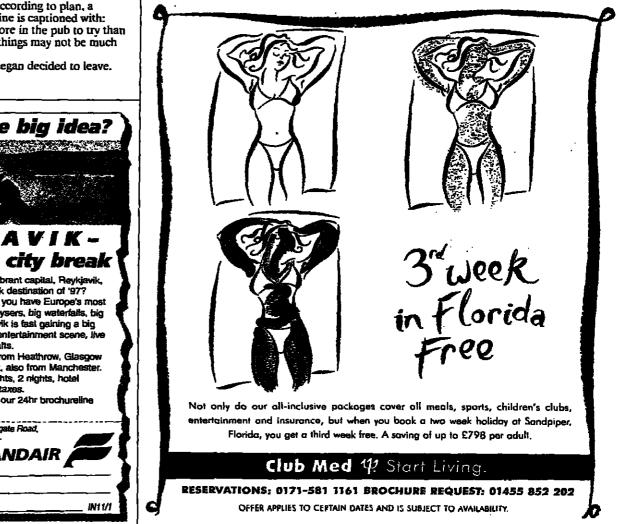
return from the same

airport, or a different one. So you could fly out to Kerry and back from Galway, for example, for under £80 each. You must stay away at

least two nights (or just one if it is a Saturday night). All travel must be completed by 26 March, just before Easter. Passengers qualify

for a special fare on the Stansted SkyTrain, of £7 return from London. Call 0645 737747 for bookings or more information.

If you want to travel from Stansted to Dublin alone, then Ryanair (0541 569 569) has a fare of £64 return including tax.



Inside Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel

> PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN LAWRENCE

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Fiona MacAulay visits the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

oald thought museums were awfully boring," said Liccy Dahi, the widow of one of our best known children's authors, as we walked around the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, Gallery in Aylesbury. "Entertainment for adults, torture for children. But he would have loved

"It's like walking into a giant pop-up book", was the verdict of Quentin Blake, the illustrator of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG and a host of other Dahl stories. The newly opened gallery is not just a themed fun palace it is an interactive children's museum. It ingeniously links Dahl's stories to objects on display and teaches children about the world around them in an entertaining and stimulating way.

The Great Glass Elevator from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory dominates the entrance to the atrium of the gallery. The voice of Willy Wonka, the great sweet inventor, chivvies you inside his far-from-ordinary lift. The domed roof of the atrium is dotted with planets from outer space, as seen from the Glass Elevator, and Charlie and Mr Wonka are there among them. Enormous, delectable Wonka sweets decorate the huge windows above the gallery entrance. Huge, brightly coloured "dream bottles" from the story of the Big Friendly Giant sit on a high

Dangling from the ceiling in the atrium is the oddest chandelier, suspended from which are a hotchpotch of objects including a policeman's helmet. a tin of Spam and a truncheon. A verbal joke made visual. "What does a policeman have in his sandwiches? Truncheonmeat." Children are encouraged to look at things carefully and to think about words and their meanings and jokes. Roald Dahl loved jokes.

Giant Peach, re-created in the Discovery are drawers enticing labels. Seacumbers and sandthumpers" reveals a selection of shells and coral, and the cheeky title

"Even older than Grandma"

introduces a drawer full of Across the room, Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel just begs to be crawled through. Glass covers in the floor reveal underground treasures - some broken bits of pottery and more fossils. Through peep-holes in the walls a stuffed mole and badger take on

lifelike qualities in their own small burrows. Above the tunnel are huge, transparent pipes filled with luminous green bubbles which transport you back to the Chocolate Factory and the

world of amazing Wonka creations. Next door is Matilda's Library, a quieter area in which to look at the array of Dahl's books or pick up an earpiece to listen to one of the stories. A video and photographic display tell us more about his life and work at Great Missenden, down the road from Aylesbury.

Ascending the brightly coloured metal stairway to the upper floor, you enter the Imagination Gallery. On the door is a copy of the steel hip that Roald used as the handle to a filing cabinet drawer in his study. (This was his original false hip, which he had had replaced). In this room, illusion and reality intermingle. There are distorting mirrors and different contraptions

introduce the world animation, including the Victorian magic

lantern. You can create your own animated story sheet at the work benches provided. The Twits' Upside Down room, suspended

outings

from the gallery roof, relates to all the experi-ments with illusion and reality. When the Twits found their room like this, they didn't know whether it was the room that was upside down, or themselves. Animated visuals on a computer screen explain how the eye sees things the wrong way up, which are then corrected by the brain. The refrain on this dip-in-dip-out programme is "Baffle your brains and boggle your eyes -Things are not always what they seem." The images back this up by showing how one thing can soon turn into something else. It is true

Dahlesque philosophy.

The gallery, originally an 18th-century coach

'Are we nearly there?'

Weekly outings for children: Go-karting

The National Pro-Karting Centre, Upper Diamond, Gladsmuir, East Lothian, EH33 1EJ (0131-665 6525) Indoor lessons for junior (13-16 years) and cadet (eight-12 years) non-members cost £50 and consist of two sessions of two hours each. The pro-kart Grand Prix. which lasts from two to four hours, costs £33 per driver; and the Super Grand Prix, three to four hours long, costs £37.50 per hour. Winners can hold aloft

their trophies and shower their friends with champagne courtesy of the centre. For the less ambitious motorist, children over eight years old can enjoy the fun-karts : sessions of five minutes cost £3.50; 10 minutes on the outdoor track costs £5.

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Orr, who have also redesigned the adjacent

Buckinghamshire Museum -

recently the winner of the Museum of the.

Year award. They have worked together with the

Buckinghamshire Museum team and with Liccy

Dahl. "We had crazy afternoons coming up with

ideas," says David Orr. "The problem has been

deciding which ones to use." The funding of

more than £600,000 came from the Heritage

Lottery Fund, the County Council, Licey Dahl

and private gifts.

The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery inspires

inquisitiveness as well as fantasy and imagina-

tion. "Watch with glittering eyes the whole world

around," said Dahl in The Minpins, "because the

greatest secrets are always hidden in the most

The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, Church

Street. Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (01296 331441). Entrance fee £1.50. Open 10am-5pm

weekdays and Saturday: 2-5pm Sunday.

unlikely places."

Battersea, London (0171-498 0916) This company specialises in training children. A cadet school is usually run on the first Saturday of every month at Streatham from 9.30am to 12.30pm at a cost of £25 per child. For an unusual birthday treat. Playscape can arrange parties which offer exclusive use of the circuit and all facilities for one hour for up to 10 drivers. Full instruction and supervision are also provided. Parties are held weekends and weekdays, at a cost of £125 per party. Individual test sessions are held on weekdays and cost £18 for 30 minutes or £30 for an hour, per child. Race overalls, crash helmets and gloves are provided but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Daytona Raceway in London and Milton Keynes (0500 145155) If you are aged 8-14. you need

parental permission to join a practice and there is also a height restriction of 4ft 6in. Over-14s also need permission but can take part in an actual meeting a competition consisting of four heats and a grand final. Twenty minutes practice costs £15, half-anhour costs £30, but it's free to watch.

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Top Gear Indoor Karting, 13 Rennys Lane, Durham (01642 765145) Although safety is of optimum importance at this circuit, drivers will be exhilarated by the party atmosphere. The circuit is set amid pumping music, ultraviolet lights, strobes and a smoke machine. There are 20 senior and two junior zip-karts; junior club is for ages 8-14 and senior starts at 16. Individuals can attend onen Grand Prix Meetings at £35 per driver. Endurance races of over two hours are £160 per team of up to five people. Optional extras include commentators, video coverage, special trophies, laurels and still photography.

Club Formula Karting, Unit 4 Greenbank. Warrenpoint Rd, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2QX, (01693 66220) This huge complex provides facilities for up to 100 spectators, it has a 700m track and can accommodate more than 100 drivers. Events include Grand Prix race meetings (£27.50 per driver) - three- to fourhour sessions consisting of practice, four heats. quarter, semi-finals and final at which winners receive trophies and champagne on the podium. There is also a mini-prix (£20 per driver) and endurance racing (£60 per team)

Abigail Rayner

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aths help to define the main lines of a design in a garden. They do not all need to be of the same importance. The main thoroughfares will perhaps be wide and surfaced with something hardwearing but there may be a surfaced with something the same statement of the same importance. wearing, but there may be an interconnecting web of narrow paths that are no more than beaten earth. You need to get the main lines of communication sorted out before you move

on to the rest of the design for your plot. A wide, swirling path leading from back door to compost bin may look good on paper as you doodle new garden designs inside in the warm. In practice, though, as you dash out into the rain with a load of potato peelings and a sup-purating marrow, you will find that the short-est route is the one you will most often use, even if it involves a long jump over the border that you tastefully placed to shield the compost bin

When the right lines have been drawn out for the paths, you need to think about the kinds of surfaces you want them to have. The most sympathetic coverings, in terms of looks and texture, will probably be the ones that also need most care and maintenance. If you do not like weeds, but hate weedkiller with an equal passion, then you had better start learning to love

Cost as well as taste has a bearing on the kind of materials you use to surface a path. The simplest and cheapest method is to leave them as beaten earth. The disadvantage of this is that you lose contrasts of colour and texture between paths and beds. And the paths get muddy after rain. On the plus side is the cost, which is nothing, and the fact that beaten earth paths can easily be rerouted when you feel like a change in the layout of the garden.

Straw is perhaps too rustic a material to use in a town garden, but in country gardens it treads down quickly to make friendly paths around vegetable plots, and sops up damp as usefully as a sponge. When it begins to look tacky, you rake it up, put it on the compost heap and replace it with a fresh layer.

Ground or chipped bark also needs regular topping up, but gives a dark, rich, chocolatecake finish to paths, especially informal ones. If you already use composted bark to mulch beds, don't use it on paths as well. You will lose any sense of contrast between one area and another, and your garden will start to look like a demonstration plot for waste products of the timber industry. Lay sheets of black polythene under the bark if you want to cut down on weeding, but not if you like the idea of the bark itself slowly transmuting to soil.

The same general principles apply to gravel, which has the added attraction of sticking to the bottom of your shoes and then magically unsticking as soon as you walk back into the house. But it makes a satisfyingly crunchy noise when you walk on it. So much so that police forces recommend it as a burglar deterrent. Plants seed themselves happily into it. Bulbs such as scillas look charming growing through it. I like this effect, of things spilling from borders into paths. If you don't, put polythene sheeting under the top dressing of gravel.

Gravel has different colours and textures, depending on where it has come from. Some have a pinkish tinge. Others are soberly and almost uniformly grey. I like the ones that are predominantly cream. Stick to one kind, that tones with the colour and texture of the brick or stone of the buildings around you. For a serene, calming. Zen finish, rake the gravel in parallel lines with a wide-tined rake. Gravel can be used to eke out more expensive materials such as stone. Set paving slabs in an open patthem with gravel.

itional kitchen gardens to provide a firm sur- alpine strawberries, pinks or petunias to keep city back yards.

On the right track

Anna Pavord continues her series on gardening principles. This week: devising and keeping paths



Sissinghurst: some patterning of the path materials gives a better effect than total anarchy

face for paths that had to stand up to heavy traffic. It must be properly rolled, so that the constituents bind together to make a hard, durable crust. The best hoggin paths are made with a "batter", a slightly humped profile, so that water is shed from the centre to run along gutters either side.

If as a covering you use bark or gravel, both of which kick about easily, you will probably need edgings for your paths to keep the stuff in place. Lengths of board make simple, unobtrusive edgings, and few skips are without planks that can be recycled like this. Keep them straight by bashing a few wooden pegs into the ground tight against them. Avoid rolls of corrugated plastic edging, which draws attention

the earth of the borders where it should be. If you mulch beds every year (as you should make a resolution now) the soil level gradually builds up. Then it is more prone to topple on to the paths. Plants provide better nets for

catching it than planks of wood. Old bricks make good paths if you happen to have them about. They have become extraordinarily expensive to buy. DIY experts start tutting in an irritating way if you use indoor bricks outside. Yes, they do sometimes flake in bad frosts, but they do not disintegrate entirely. I'd prefer to run that risk than live with the liverish, slightly shiny finish of what is called "engineering brick".

Similar to brick, but usually dark grey, dark to itself without having the looks to warrant it. blue or black, are stable paviours, which are a path like this, abandon all thoughts of repair-

nghurst, the National Trust's famous garden in Kent, are made from a random selection of bricks, cobble and rubble. Some patterning of the materials - using bricks in threes, incorporating roundels made from bits of blue-andwhite china, making parallel lines of cubbles

Some of the best paths, such as those at Siss-

PHOTO: NATIONAL TRUST/ERIC CRICHTON

down the sides - gives a better effect than total anarchy. The advantage of this kind of path is that it provides a home to all kinds of bits and pieces that you do not want to throw away. The most unpleasant surface for paths is asphalt, though concrete runs a close second.

Asphalt is just a touch more funereal. Laid on an uneven surface, both of them crack and become as lethal as they are ugly. If you have If your paths are properly paved with stone criss-crossed over with an incised trellis pattern ing it. Invite round a bunch of friends with pick-Hoggin is the term for a mixture of sand, or brick, you won't need fixed edgings and can to stop horses slipping. It works for humans. axes and grievances and let them work off their gravel and pebbles that was often used in trad-rely on intertwined clumps of violas, daisies, too. These slabs make smart paths in minimalist spleen on the hard core. Then cart it all off to the tip and start again.

Duff Hart-Davis There is little doubt that the Welsh hills have



suffered the worst damage at the teeth of sheep

hatever other ecological controversies may flare up in 1997, there is certain to be sharp debate about the decline of Britain's heather moors. Crisis in the Hills, the report recently published by the Wildlife Trusts, showed how excessive grazing by sheep has impoverished our upland habitat, and called for immediate reforms to

arrest the downward trend. Case studies range from Islay, off the west coast of Scotland, through Cumbria and the Peak District, to Wales. There is little doubt that the Welsh hills have suffered the worst damage at the teeth of sheep; and, according to the report, the main agent of destruction is the present system of subsidies, whereby hill farmers are paid £30 per breeding ewe per year, irrespective of the area on which the animals range.

The result is that sheep are far too numerous, and on many hills the vegetation is being eaten to death. Heather and other dwarf shrubs, such as bilberries, are dying out; wild flowers are vanishing; bracken (which is not only poisonous, but also harbours disease-bearing ticks) is taking over; and birds such as grouse, curiew, golden plover and merlin are disappearing.

The report contends that farmers, instead of being paid to destroy the countryside, should receive financial incentives to improve it. The most important recommendation is that the Government should switch from payments per head to

payments per acre. All this sounds like good sense. Yet many Welsh farmers are infuriated by the report, claiming that it grossly oversimplifies the problems - that, for instance, the decline in bird life is due largely to an increase in predators such as birds of prey, foxes and feral mink. The Wildlife Trusts (the farmers say) should address themselves to this problem, rather than bash away at shepherds.

I myself find it strange that the report makes no mention of the role played by the owners of grouse moors. Because grouse depend on healthy heather. private landowners who wish to run shoots spend fortunes on the active management of their land. Strips of old heather are burned every year to promote constant new growth, bracken is suppressed by cutting or spraying, and the control of an enlightened manager predators benefits not only

game but other moorland birds as well. No debate about the uplands can ignore the role of grouse-shooting. Grouse were abundant in Wales until the Twenties and Thirties, but now there are extremely few left. Sheep and predators have driven

the game-birds out. It so happens that in the annual competition for wild game conservation projects, organised by the champagne firm Laurent-Perrier, the first two awards this year have gone to estates with large expanses of heather. The winner was Garrogie, a 30,000-acre grouse moor and deer forest south of Loch Ness, whose owner, Charles Connell, has made valiant efforts to restore heather destroyed by overgrazing.

Seldom can there have been a better illustration of what happens to hill country when management lapses. At the turn of the century Garrogie was a highly productive grouse moor, but by the time Mr Connell bought the place in 1979 overstocking had reduced it to a poor sheep farm and an occasional deer forest, with searcely a grouse to be seen.

Now, by a combination of predator control and habitat management, he has built it back, and last season it yielded 550 brace. His main ploy has been to exclude sheep from large areas with electric fences. some of them powered by miniature windmills. The improvement of the vegetation within the

barriers has been amazing. Similarly spectacular results have been achieved at Abernethy, on Speyside. where the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has won Laurent Perrier's second prize for the management of its 34,000acre reserve. There the main aim is to conserve and extend the ancient Caledonian pine forest, principally by reducing the red deer population from nearly 1,000, to 300.

With grazing pressure lifted, pine seedlings are no longer being mown off in infancy. The forest is gradually spreading, and the undergrowth of heather and bilberry has become noticeably more luxuriant. This has helped the population of black grouse - a threatened species - to increase threefold.

From every corner of Britain the message is the same: that heather has astonishing powers of recuperation, and can stage a comeback after lying dormant for 50 years. But must give it that chance.



Winskill Stones, 64 acres of rare limestone pavement in the Yorkshire Dales, have been saved from quarry owners' bulldozers. This follows the massive response to an appeal launched by Plantlife, a charity dedicated to conserving wild plants and their habitats. The appeal was led by television's star gardener, Geoff Hamilton, who died earlier this year. Since then, Plantlife has received thousands of contributions from fans in memory of Mr Hamilton.

The appeal has been so successful that Plantlife had money left over from the sum that it needed to

support the funds pledged by the National Heritage Lottery Fund to buy Winskill Stones. It intends to use the extra to create a wild flower meadow in Mr Hamilton's home county, Rutland.

National Lottery Funds will also be vital to restore Britain's first ever public park, Derby Arboretum, for future generations to enjoy. The arboretum, which lies at the centre of the city, was given to Derby in 1835 by Joseph Strutt, the owner of the local cotton mill. The park was designed and laid out by John Claudius Loudon, the horticulturist

and writer, who was the Geoff Hamilton of the mid-19th century. Many of the original features of Loudon's design still remain. miraculously unaltered.

Strutt laid down few precepts. The arboretum was to be a public garden, open free on two days a week (including Sunday) with a minimum charge on the other five days. Two lodges were to be included, one of which could be used as a public assembly room. Maintenance costs were to be kept as low as possible.

Loudon thought that the site's main disadvantage was its lack of a "distant prospect". There was "no

view beyond the grounds, worthy of being taken" he wrote at the time. His solution was to mould the ground into mounds up to 10 feet high to shut out what he didn't want

At the time, this was a massive, innovation and it remains an ideal way of getting round a problem that is rather worse now than it was in Loudon's time.

The City Council has appointed Glenn Anderson, landscape consultants, to find out from those who use the arboretum or live near it, how they feel it could be improved.



tures a base made from high density polystyrene for good root insulation and a sturdy clear plastic lid with three adjustable air vents. It is suitable for indoor and outdoor use and comfortably holds seed trays and pots up to 4". And once the propagation season is over the base is just right to hold a growing bag and is ideal for tomatoes as it has slots for cane supports and a shallow reservoir to keep roots moist, At just £19,99 inc p&p it's a great buy for any gar-You can turn the system into a grant electric propaga

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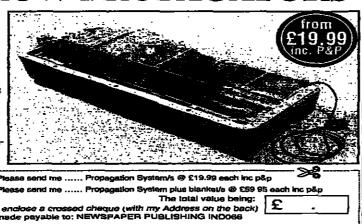
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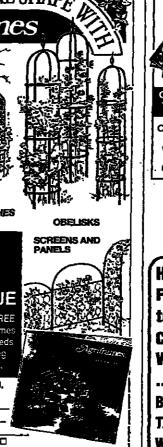
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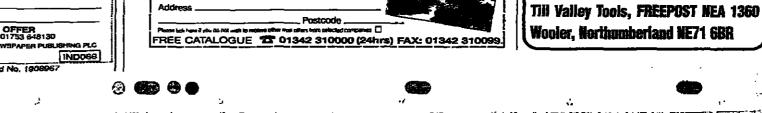


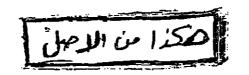






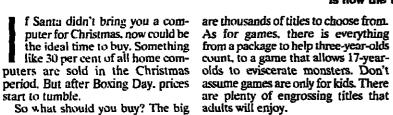
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Bargain bytes galore

This month, why not invest in computers? By Steve Homer



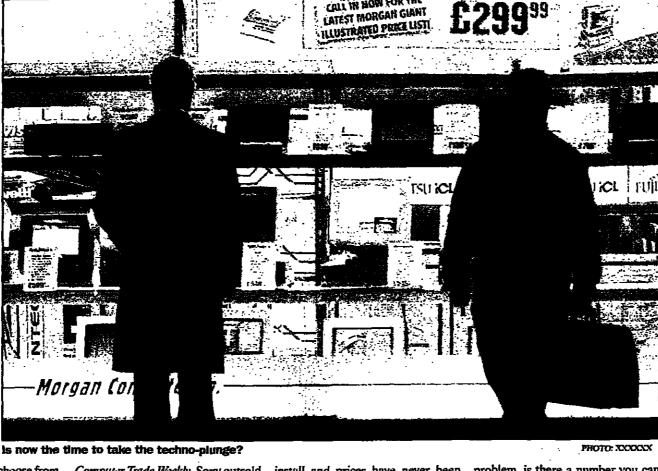
choice is between a Macintosh, a Windows type computer or a games machine. Apple Macintoshes still have it over the Windows PC in terms of in. MMX is a new type of add-on to ease of use, so for the absolute novice existing computer chips that allows they represent a good start. Though there is significantly less software available for the Apple Macintosh, packages operate more comfortably together, so, in theory, you should be more productive with the software you The Windows PC can often feel a bit kludgy. Even with a powerful Pen-

tium machine, a piece of modern software may take a while to "load", and written for it appear. 10 seconds can seem an eternity. However, the range of software for the PC is stunning. Educational packages such as Microsoft's Encarta ency-clopedia; Maris's Red Shift II which This Christmas the Sony Playstation

As for games, there is everything from a package to help three-year-olds count, to a game that allows 17-yearassume games are only for kids. There are plenty of engrossing titles that adults will enjoy. One thing that should make buy-

ing a PC even more attractive now is multimedia applications, such as video, to play better. But there are few games and other applications that will really take advantage of this new technology. If you mainly want to use a PC for word processing. spreadsheets and the like, the MMX will be of no use. Even for games, MMX is not likely to be worth bothering with until games specifically

If you really enjoy getting your aggression out on imaginary characters on the screen, than perhaps you helps you explore the galaxy; Notting and the Sega Saturn continued their Hill's wonderful Art of Singing: there war to the death. According to



Computer Trade Weekly, Sony outsold Sega by at least six to one this Christmas. However, they are both excellent games machines, now on sale for around £200, compared with £800-£1.200 for a good multimedia PC.

Not all the Playstation and Saturn games involve you killing things. Race games look good, too. Of course, what is missing are worthy titles. There really are no encyclopedias, language courses or design packages for the Saturn or the PlayStation. These are machines built for one thing: fun!

If you know someone who already has a computer there is one cost-effecyou if you buy it while you are buying tive late Christmas present they will love you for. For about £50 you can buy them some extra memory.

When you select a program on a computer screen, the program and associated data are loaded into memory. This so-called random access memory, or RAM, was very expensive. Most PCs sold today have 8-16Mb of memory. Last year very few machines were sold with 16 Mb, as it was just too expensive.Particularly with Windows 95, more memory equals faster performance. The good news is that memory is quite easy to

install and prices have never been lower. To buy an additional 8Mb of memory last year would have set you back more than £200. This year you can probably pay less than £60. All you have to do is note down the make and model of the machine and check with the manufacturer to see what type of memory you need. Armed with the model number and type of memory, ring round a few suppliers. Installing memory shouldn't take more than 10 at weekends. minutes. If you are buying a new computer, don't be a skinflint. Make sure you have at least 16Mb in your machine. Most stores will install it for

your computer. There are still companies selling computers with only 8Mb of memory. Avoid them like the plague. Ideally, go for 24Mb or more. Finally, if you are buying, make sure of after-sales support. Most computers will function well for several years, but if they break down it can be a major headache. Check to see whether the engineer will be coming out to you, or you will have to take the machine to some repair centre. Check how long the warranty lasts. And if you have a timedia PC.

problem, is there a number you can ring? If so, how long after buying the computer can you use it, and will it be a premium rate call? You do not want to pay up to 65p a minute dealing with a problem that might be the manufacturer's fault. And if you plan to use your computer at home, check that technical support is available in the evenings and double-check on cover

Also, telephone support for most software that is pre-installed on your machine may last 90 days or less. You

may need to purchase extra support. But don't let all this careful thinking put you off. For less than £1,000, if you shop around you can buy the most amazing tool that the human race has ever had to play with. Accessing information around the world on the Internet, receiving and sending faxes and electronic mail, opening up windows of excitement on CD-Rom on everything from Beethoven to baskethall, listening to music, perhaps even watching movies and television. controlling your home finances and writing that great novel: all this and more can be done on the average mul-

Ordeal by chocolate

Under the counter with Lyndsay Calder

t was only after I'd finally managed to dispatch my parents back over the Border 10 days after Christmas, that we plucked up courage to try the chocolate body paint. I, too, had considered

this over-hyped little stocking filler, but had rejected it on the grounds (practical, I know) that if I couldn't get muddy paw-prints out of my Egyptian cotton sheets, what the hell was I going to do with chocolate?

However, there it was now, nestling in the toe of my stocking along with the satsuma. It was all terribly

titillating at first - hee hee hee. But the chocolate emerged from the tube with the rapidity of year-old toothpaste, and in exceptionally unappealing thin strands reminiscent of Primula or Polyfilla. It took some squeezing before any coverage at all could be achieved - he was blue in the face. He said he wished he hadn't been such a skinflint, and had bought the tub instead.

Charming. Things did seem to look up when the paintbrush came out, and the chocolate was spread and moulded in caressing strokes over my body. However,

instead of moans of pleasure, he was gleefully breathing.
"Hah - rag-rolling! And look! tortoise-shelling!" Any hint of eroticism I might have hoped for died as I looked down at this DIY freak having

his way with me in a Paint Technique Frenzy. Suddenly his mind moved on to other things and he claimed to have reproduced a silhouette of Brian Lara executing a perfect offdrive, then asked me to wiggle from left to right to see if we could produce a moving image of the shot.

Enough.
"Lick!" I ordered, which didn't seem to release him from the "Look! The least you

could do is lick this off. This did attract his attention for a moment, and his tongue tentatively explored an area of chocolate, but then just stopped. "What?" I said. "What's wrong?"

"It's too sweet," he said, "I only like dark chocolate, love." I hate stocking fillers.

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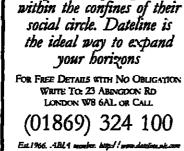




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GLAMOROUS COUPLE seek hand-some \$1 man 48+, Box No 1:1859.

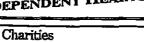
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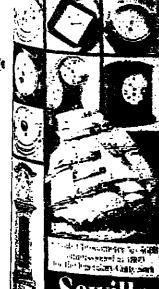
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Jane Furnival unravels the anxiety of buying art

:ounter 3y Calder

> instead of $m_{\rm conv}$ ω_l pleasure, he was gleefully breathing. Hah - rag-rolling And look! torrowe-shelling Any hint of croicem I might have hoped for died as I hacked down at this DIY fre it having

> his way with me in a Paint Technique Frenzy Suddenly his mind moved on noother things and he claimed to have reproduced a sithoughte of Brian Lara executing a perfect offdrive, then asked me to wiggle from left to tight TO see if we could produce a moving image of the said

Enough "Lak" Fordured which didn't seem to role, so him from the field. "Leave The least tog

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CHILDREN

The British Institute for

Children (BIBIC). hnoule

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hand-made original prints of editions limited to no more than 250. Eight hundred is too many. etching, is printed by the artist from a metal plate, then sometimes hand tinted. Once you've got your picture home, the colour of your walls or proportions of your house may make it look quite different. If you hate it, the best dealears will take

price?" It's a trade secret that many galleries

add ten per cent to cover the commission

they pay to interior decorators. Prints are

the cheapest "Real Art", but are scary

because you worry that you might be buy-

You've got to be careful," warns Julian

ing an expensive form of Athena poster.

Lonergan of CCA Galleries, which spe-

cialises in prints by young artists. "Buy

people who are artier than thou.

So how do you start buying Art?

without doing your homework first.

ideal place to cut your artistic teeth.

(White Cube gallery stand).

of Annora Spence.

affect a room's mood,

it back, but you must move fast. "The last picture I bought - an etching

For Sales

2440AL M 4. 2241P



If art is where the home is

'Ladies at the Piano' by Annora Spence

personal caterer Charlotte Lyon, 34, who collects modern prints of food. "I moved it from room to room until it became an evesore. I tried to return it to the gallery where I bought it, but I'd had it for a year and the guy wasn't interested."

You could change your wall colour to match your picture, though don't make it too obvious. Interior designer Nina see where my prints would go". Campbell recalls being taken into a room room. You had to sit and admire the pic-Pictures should just sort of happen."

Val Lewis, 53, chose her paintings to

For Sales

The Ultimate in Men's Underwea

of a pig-was too big for my flat," confesses lithographs of young German artist Jurgen change your picture frame. Napoleon Gorg for their fairytale dream-like quality - and because he uses her favourite wal colours of terracotta and peach. Six years later, the Lewises have 29

Gorg works and have just moved to a bigger house to give them scope for more. She fell for the house when she saw its high hall "because I could immediately

Papers and Paints, the Battersea deco-The prints' more expensive cousin, the which had clearly been done up in pale rating suppliers, report a steady number of valuable but don't be seduced into buyartists' pigment. Top art suppliers Cornelture. It's not something I approve of. One shouldn't decorate around one's picture.

lissen point out that many of these pigments shouldn't decorate around one's picture.

are too toxic for walls. Safe ones are any Fair', takes place at the Business Design Cen-

PHOTOGRAPH: CCA GALLERIES

changed every frame at the Louvre. Aluminium is out, gilt and painted frames are in. Designer Christine Fallah has just used hand painted salmon pink on a gold frame for three Mick Rooney lithographs of musi-cians so that "the eye would be attracted to the beautiful frame, as a window leads to the picture".

Frames can make a weak picture seem more important, or a cheap one more 381 8655) and An Search (0181-969 9844). grey to "frame" a Degas. "There was only a cream coloured sofa in the whole hoping to find matching wall colour in pure art is addictive.

SW70 (0171-352 8626).

Cornellissen & Son, 10:

earthy colours, ochre and terracottas, and ultramarine blue – but they cost £65.25 a kilo. Innuary (0171-359 3535). Wed-Thurs 11ammatch her interior. She fell in love with the If you move house, or change your interior, 8.30pm; Fri-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-5pm.

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Good thing

Living Colors: The Definitive Guide to Color Palettes Through the Ages, by Margaret Walch and Augustine

(Chronicle Books) will help you match wall paint to painter. The artistic work is boiled down to its 10 characteristic colours, in swatches to take to the paint shop. £27.99 from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1R 6AH (0171-734 1234).

Mad thing

Great art should wear well. This red velvet beret trimmed with an exuberant feather inspired by Frans Hals'

Young Man Holding a Skull (1626) – is one of six hats by Rachel Skinner based on National Gallery paintings, £95 from the National Gallery Sainsbury Wing Shop, Trafalgar Square, London SW1 (0171-747 2870 for mail order).

Sure thing

If you don't see a picture you want to buy, why not paint one. Arts psychologist Andv Evans offers practical help with overcoming a creative block in any art form. Take yourself to him with your failed art and he'll make you feel at easel. From £20 per hour (0171-602 2707).

Admission £7; concessions £3.50. Gala preview evening: Tuesday 14th January (£15 single, £25 double).

CCA Galleries offer prints from £100 upwards by young modern artists (0171-499 6701). Branches in London, Buth, Oxford and Farnham. There are independent minder-finders

who will help you to buy pictures, such as Julia Fuller (0171-727 4761), Art Contact (0171-

Cornellissen & Son, 105 Great Russell St. London WCIB 3RY (0171-636 1045). The Arts Sales Index records prices of

all real art sold worldwide in the last year. £105 including p&p from 1 Thames Street. Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8IG. Credit card sales 01932 856426

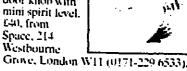
Six of the best home improvements

You don't have to go mad on decorating, or even buy works of art, to change the feel of a room - just add a touch here and there. Accessories such as rugs and lampshades can make all the difference. The key is not to spend a fortune, and to improvise. Maybe use old maps as wallpaper, or make the most of half-used tins of paint by painting stripes on odd walls. We've come up with six suggestions, one for each room of your house, to make an immediate difference.

Yellow mottled wallpaper. £25 a roll. by Designers Guild. 267-271 King's Road. London SW3 (0171-243 7300)



Front room Pink acrylic door knob with mini spirit level. £40, from Space, 214 Westbourne



Dining room Classic urn steneil. £12.90; steneil stick, £2.09 each, available in 22

colours, all from the Steneil Store, 89 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1 and branches

nationwide (enquiries and mail order, 01923-285 577/88);

Kitchen Party Day orange paint, £17.49 for two-and-a-half litres, by Dulux Definitions, available from good home and DIY stores (enquiries, 01753 550555).

Bedroom

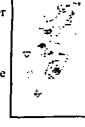
Turquoise silk lampshade with glass bead droplets, £12. from Bhs, 252-258 Oxford Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (enquiries, 0171-262 3288).

(enquiries and

0171-354 9696).

mail order,

Bathroom Multicoloured mosaic tiles, £10 per kilo, from Paint Magic, 79 Shepperton Road. London N1 and branches nationwide

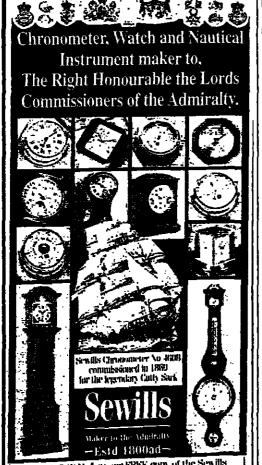


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One of Rover's surviving village-style dealerships, at Hampton in Middlesex. The company is proposing to slim down its network

Where have all the dealers gone?

to huge retail parks, as James Ruppert finds out

tation Garage, at Topsham, near Exeter, recently ceased to be a Skoda dealer. "After blow," says the former proprietor, Mike Commin. "Selling Skodas was mever easy, but it was a way of life for is. Skoda did everything by the book when it came to termination, but it was just a bit heavy-handed."

pruned from the nationwide network. This is part of a trend sweep- says Mike Commin. "So we decided ing through the motor industry as to sell Skodas ... now the same thing manufacturers seek to exercise more has happened again, and this time we control over the way their cars are are striking out on our own." sold. What it all boils down to is that your local dealer may not be so local in the near future. Servicing parts and sales are increasingly becoming a regional phenomenon. For rural motorists in particular, popping down to a small, friendly, local outlet a few miles away is proving increasingly dif-ficult. Manufacturers want you to visit around a 1 per cent share of the new a huge, impersonal, business park

In Yorkshire, for instance, the number of Volvo dealers is just three, catering for one huge territory, whilst Rover has expressed its intention to cull up to 30 per cent - around 160 sites - of its existing 511 dealers. According to the motor industry analysts Sewells. UK car dealership that is not selling a good mix of cars, numbers as a whole will drop by as or operating profitably, won't survive. analysts Sewells. UK car dealership much as 40 per cent over the next 10

dealers at the expense of smaller ones. Remember the corner shop? Replaced by the big, bland, corporate 25 years, it came as a bit of a supermarket. Something similar is happening in the motor trade.

Once upon a time there was an Austin Morris dealership down every high street. It explained the big sales and huge loyalty enjoyed by the home marque, but during the ration-Station Garage is not alone. It is alised British Leyland era, the small one of many Skoda dealers being outlets were cut back. "That's what happened to this site 25 years ago,"

When it comes to innovative ways of marketing cars, the Daewoo has been remarkably successful - making much of the fact that they are cutting out the dealer completely and are selling direct to the customer. In the first year of trading the company sold 18,000 cars in the UK, and has taken car market

Meanwhile, Kevin Jones at Rover does not see a problem with his company's proposals to slim down the network. "This is not a cut-and-slash policy, but a businesslike approach that will ensure the network's future. Essentially every dealer has to justify his or her existence, and clearly one Take the specialist MGF, for instance: are expanding the territories of larger that marque because it would not sales manager told me: "their guys will result in better customer service. has given us a new lease of life."

have been viable for all 500 to have sold a sports car. We would like nothing more than a Rover dealer in every town, but that is not possible in today's environment. However, as cars are less dependent on servicing, it makes sense to concentrate our activities over a wider area."

Dealers are fighting back. A highly publicised case last July involved Harry Wake, a Lincoln Renault dealer, who had his franchise cancelled when Renault UK said the premises were inadequate and wanted them replaced by a green field site run by another dealer. The judge ruled in favour of Mr Wake, who can now trade until 2002 as a Renault dealer, because there was a verbal agreement between the parties after Mr Wake rescued the company and invested £75,000. The judge saw Renault UK's actions of backing out of an agreement not to terminate so long as Wake was in charge as "deeply unattractive ... making a mockery of the manufacturer's fine words about partnership with its dealers".

However, this ruling does not alter a manufacturer's right to dump a dealer without notice, even though copycat cases to test the legal precedent set by the case were threatened. It all turned on the existence of a verbal assurance which was construed (backed up by Renault UK's internal documents) as a binding contract.

Registration Numbers

from head office were quite open; they want to put dealers on huge retail parks. They argued that customers flock to the out-of-town superstores, such as MFI. But I argued they don't all need to take their flat-packed furniture back to be serviced, do they?'

Prime movers behind the big-isbest movement were the multiple dealer groups, which account for 50 per cent of the UK car trade. However, the biggest of all, Lex Retail, maintains that a leaner operation is a more efficient and profitable one. According to Malcolm Harbour of Solihull-based motor industry ana-lysts Harbour Wade Brown, "large" system and becoming masters of dealer groups may identify new opportunities by concentrating their efforts in market niches, or by developing a strong regional base."

One of the most remarkable indications that this is happening is the announcement that the Chesterfieldbased Pendragon Group has been awarded the Fiat and Alfa Romeo franchises for the entire territory within the M25, an area that accounts for 10 per cent of Fiat Group sales. This two-year scheme will see Pendragon develop 15 retail sites with three more after-sales service centres. Fiat's Peter Newton refuted the suggestion that this amounted to a cartel. "This enlarged territory approach is not a strategy that will be applied Clearly, manufacturers will have to be countrywide. It suits the metropolitan years. The signs are that car makers we appointed just 125 dealers to sell careful what they say to dealers. A area provides economies of scale and

Overall we operate and believe in a balanced network with everything from small, family-run outlets to public companies.

In theory you can shop around for your next car, but all dealers operate on a postcode basis and are supposed to draw their customers from that area. BMW and Porsche franchises are just two of the more strict prestige marques who could refuse to sell you a car if your postcode does not fit. But should you be forced to buy from a dealer you don't like, or who offers the worst buying package?

There are signs that some dealers their own destiny. Inverness dealer Norman Cordiner recently sold their Ford franchise to become a nearlynew car specialist. They have turned their three-acre site into a "Motor Mall", and they are combining it with a fast fit, service, accident repair and rental operations. "We felt that as a family firm we should become fully independent to expand down our chosen route," a representative

At newly independent Station Garage, Mike Commin was relieved. "You can't make a small franchise pay these days: the margins are tiny and then there are all the costs of signage and promotion. Sometimes the Skoda sign put customers off. Our used-car operation is thriving. Breaking away from the franchise system



are endlessly advertised on TV, all trying to push some invariably mendacious message

Cars with

weak brands

rand is the big motor industry buzz word. Most car makers now have brand managers whose sole job is to work out what the brand should be, and then singlemindedly reinforce it through marketing, advertising and PR. Yet the majority of car

makers have little or no brand identity. The exceptions are Mercedes-Benz (solid, well engineered, expensive). Volvo (safe, but so badly driven you pity every other poor sod on the road), BMW (flash, German, driven by image-conscious thrusters in a hurry), Rolls-Royce (regal, if now a touch vulgar), Jaguar (gentlemanly, mature), Ferrari (sexy, fast) and Porsche (flash, fast). Of the mass makers, only Volkswagen has a consistently strong brand (well-made, won't let you down). These are strong brands because, by and

suitable promotion. Weak brands are those artificially fabricated by some highly paid marketing consultant or ad agency, and then foisted on an ill-informed brand manager, usually to promote a wholly unexceptional car.

large, they accurately reflect the product and

have done so for many

years, reinforced by

Cars with weak brands are those endlessly being advertised on TV, all trying to push some meaningless and invariably mendacious message. Ninety-five per cent of car ads fall into this category.

Despite the intentions of

the brand manager and the ad agency, they will usually fail to build a brand because their message bears no relationship with reality. Rover (ex-slogan: "Above all, it's a Rover") has no brand value partly because that slogan was nonsensical. Underneath, Rovers are Hondas. More important, the cars Rover makes today are nothing like the cars it made 20 years ago, when it did have a strong brand (comfortable, strong, genteel). It will take many vears for BMW. Rover's new owner, to correct this. And BMW, expert at brand

management, knows it. Vauxhall is another maker with no image partly because its slogans are silly. How can the Vectra be a car for the next millennium when it's so ordinary in this one? It is also because Vauxhall, as a car maker, stands for nothing. Its cars have been consistently unexceptional. One reason for car

makers becoming brand

obsessed is that as cars become more mechanically similar, so their brand identities become more important as buying differentiators. Nowadays, there is virtually no difference in engineering quality between a Nissan and a Citroën and a Peugeot and a Fiat (or, for that matter, a Renault and a Ford and a Vauxhali). They are virtually mechanical clones. So their badges, and all they stand for, matter more and more.

Even some manufacturers who do genuinely offer distinctive products are moving to the middle ground of mediocrity. They, too, have to reduce costs and now borrow manufacturing methods and components used by their less distinctive but frequently more cost-efficient rivals. Mercedes cars, although still the world's best built, are not as exceptionally solid as they were a decade or so ago, because they are increasingly being manufactured like Fords and Renaults and Nissans. The latest and fine VW Polo, aithough still better made than any rival, is not as tough as an old Golf. In terms of product, the

biggest difference between cars is now in their style. A few distinctive shapes are starting to pepper the roads after years of sameagain styling - notably from Fiat, Ford, Audi and Renault, Good car designers are now being lauded like the fashion couture kings. Like clothes designers, they are asked to put sex appeal and emotion into goods which, materially, are much the same as the rivals.

When people at parties find out what I do, they invariably ask me what sort of car they should buy. Years ago, when cars were more mechanically distinctive, I would answer their questions at length. Now, I simply ask which car they fancy (there is invariably a car that appeals - usually on the basis of style and brand). As long as there is a dealer close by, as long as it is not East European. Korean or Malaysian (although new Skodás and new Hyundais are fine) whose cars really are still technologically a decade behind, then I advise them to buy it. They are rarely disappointed.

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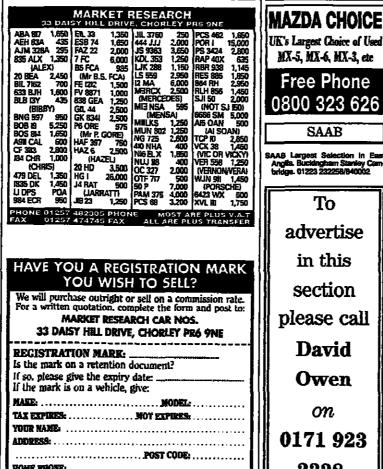
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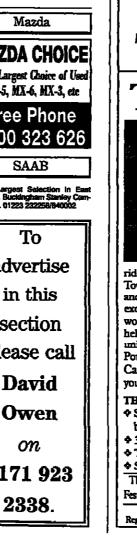
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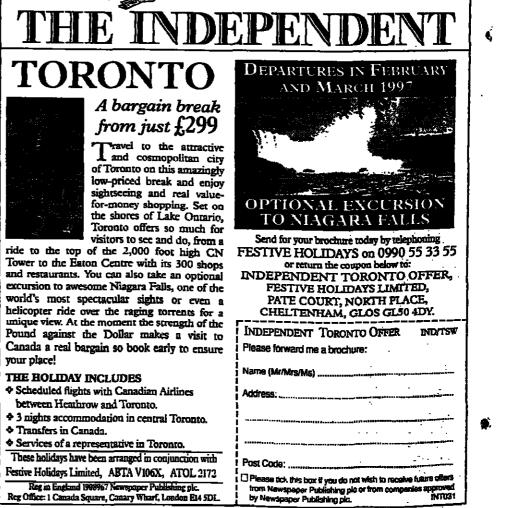
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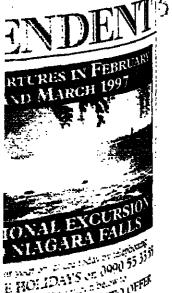




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The rebirth of Docklands

Catherine Wheatley reports on a recovery

ack in the Eighties the Docklands area of east London was heralded as the ultimate yuppie neighbourhood. Yet by the early Nineties the notion had fallen flat. Who wanted to live in a glass-and-steel tower, symbol of all that was brash about the last decade, miles from the nearest shops and restaurants, and isolated

by a notoriously unreliable transport system? Docklands has always aroused strong emotions. When Canary Wharf rose out of the marshes, developers celebrated the birth of a new community. And when the owners, Olympia & York, went bust, the same people furiously blamed poor infrastructure.

But reports of the death of Docklands may have been exaggerated. A new, more rational attitude is emerging, as buyers recognise that the area is good value for money. Estate agents find that demand among City workers and professionals has risen sharply. According to the regeneration agency London Docklands Development Corporation. sales of flats and houses on the Isle of Dogs last year were up 140 per cent on 1995.

Hazel Ankesmit, a personnel administrator working in London's Mayfair, is typical of the new generation of buyers in E14. Tired of a daily commute from Hove, East Sussex, she is paying £110,000 for a one-bedroom flat in Burrell's Wharf, through estate agent Knight Frank

"I don't want to be in the smoky parts of London and I certainly don't want to live in a conventional road in Wandsworth. I think Docklands is good value. I'm getting security, easy parking and a river view - very important, as I'm a Pisces," she laughs.

The Jubilee Line extension from Green Park via Canary Wharf to Stratford is playing a pivotal role in the renaissance. At the moment the journey from the Isle of Dogs to the West End takes about three-quarters of an hour using the Docklands Light Railway. The new link, scheduled to open in March 1998, should cut commuting time to

just 14 minutes. Although Hazel Ankesmit is used to a long haul to work, the Underground line was a big service is all right and I think the DLR is fun, is another worry. But Simon O'Donnell, like but Jubilee Line is really going to help. Also, many other buyers, is unperturbed. "I looked shops and restaurants are going to pop up around the station," she adds.

West India Quay, a proposed retail and your money here."

leisure complex which will eventually include a supermarket, a multiplex cinema, a hotel, and around 20 restaurants and shops. The developers will also convert the beautiful Grade I listed West India Quay warehouses into 90 apartments. At Canary Wharf itself, the Riverside scheme planned by a Hong Kong entrepreneur will feature a sports and leisure centre, another hotel and possibly a casino, as well as 330 flats.

The projects, due to be completed by the end of next year, should finally crush the criticism that there are no facilities on the Isle of Dogs. Two years ago, unless locals were shopping for a new suit or a Filofax, a trip off the island was essential. But since then there has been a steady increase in the number and range of retailers. Now, residents can get their groceries at Tesco Metro and pop into Books Etc or Music Music before having lunch at Café Rouge or All Bar One.

Much of the improvement is due to more businesses relocating to E14: demand for offices is reinforcing demand for shops and housing. According to Rupert Cherryman, of estate agent Chesterton, Citibank's decision last August to pick Canary Wharf as the pre-ferred site for its new UK headquarters will make a crucial difference.

"What's happening at Canary Wharf has generated a lot of interest," he says. "There s a feeling among home-buyers that Docklands is coming of age."

With all the renewed interest in Docklands, buying here is not necessarily easy. Simon O'Donnell, a management accountant, was gazumped last October when he tried to buy a house for £94,500 in the Quay West development. "I've just paid the full asking price for my new place in Jamestown Harbour," he says. "But I still think it's a good deal. I've lived here for six years and I really enjoy it: Docklands is not as far away as people think."

Prices have already gone up by between 5 and 10 per cent, even though purpose-built developments and a handful of office-to-residential conversions will put more than 800 new homes on the Isle of Dogs this year. A repeat of last Febru at properties in Greenwich and in Blackheath, but there was really nothing to com-Canary Wharf station will be next door to pare with the Isle of Dogs. You get more for



Gazumped when trying to buy in Docklands last autumn, Simon O'Donnell has recently bought a home in Jamestown Harbour

Mortgages and the endowment policy pay-out risk

The news on payouts is encouraging but the risk has not been eliminated yet. By Clifford German

owners who were persuaded during the Eighties to take out endowment policies to repay their mortgages would not receive enough to pay the mortgage off in full have "probably" been exaggerated, but it may need another four years of profitable investment conditions before the risk disappears.

The latest evidence to support this conclusion comes from the new figures announced every January by the insurance companies which provide endowment policies. At this time each year they declare the payouts on policies which will mature during the year and the new bonus figures which are added each year to the basic value of all current policies.

Payouts are based on the investment

policy, and consist of three elements, the basic sum assured, annual or "reversionary" bonuses credited each year during the life of the policy, and a single "ter-minal" bonus added during the final year

Endowment policies taken out in the Seventies and early Eighties are not at risk. A man who took out a Norwich Union endowment policy in 1972 aged 30 and paid £50 a month over 25 years would be in line for a payout of £93,179 this year, slightly more than the equivalent payout of £92,535 a year ago. This represents a cumulative annual return of 12.6 per cent a year which compares with an average inflation rate of 8.4 per cent over the period, and implies substantial windfall

But very few endowment mortgages were taken out in the Seventies. It was not until the Eighties when lenders got wise to the commissions they could earn from insurance companies by getting borrowers to take out an endowment policy to repay the loan in one fell swoop that endowments became the normal way of repayment. Many existing borrowers were also persuaded to swap their regular repayment mortgages for an endowment, which means most policies maturing in the Nineties will only have been running for periods of between 10 and 15 years, not 25. Unfortunately for endowment policy

holders it was also the time when the gov-

ernment began to get inflation under con-

ears that many thousands of home-returns fund managers can achieve on the of what is needed to pay off the mortgage. trol and the rates of return insurance compounds who were persuaded during premiums received over the life of the of what is needed to pay off the mortgage. panies could earn also starting falling. So panies could earn also starting falling. So the same borrower who started paying £30 a month in 1987 will be getting only £9,765 back this year, an annual return of 9.4 per cent against an average inflation rate of 4.5 per cent. In real terms after inflation, returns have been well maintained, but an endowment policy-holder with a set mortgage to repay is, of course, interested in the total return not the real return after

maturing in 1997 will also be as much as 5 per cent less than an equivalent policy cent and the terminal bonus just 17 per policies will actually fail to cover the mortgage, but the surplus after paying off bonuses 33 per cent and the terminal

per cent rather than the substantial windfalls a full-term 25-year policy pays out.

Future payouts depend on the annual and especially the terminal bonuses added in the final year. The longer the policy runs the larger the value of the bonuses and especially the terminal bonus, which can be 10-30 per cent of the payout after 10 years, and 40-60 per cent after 25 years.

At General Accident, for example, the The new bonus figures appearing show—sum assured is 52 per cent of the payout that payouts on endowment policies on a 10-year endowment policy maturing this year, the annual bonuses are 31 per resents just 12 per cent, the annual

the mortgage will now be a modest 10-20 bonus 55 per cent of the payout, which is why it is best to hang on to policies and not surrender them.

So what are the prospects for the bonuses credited to endowment policies future? The reduced payout on a 10-year policy maturing this year is because the good returns in 1996 were offset by better returns in 1986, the year which has dropped out of the latest calculations; 1987 was not a good year (although less of a disaster than memories of the Great Crash in October would suggest) so it ought to be easy for 1997 to beat it in time for next year's figures. But 1988 and especially 1989 were good years so the pressure will stay on 10-year maturities for maturing last year received. Few maturing cent. After 25 years the sum assured rep- another four years, when the negative returns on investments in 1990 will drop out of the equation.

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Moving the goal posts

Where rugby players are renting. By Rosalind Russell

hey're built like Desperate Dan, have thighs like treetrunks and are usually covered in mud. If they sat on sofa, it might groan in protest. But landlords love them.

Since Rugby Union turned professional this season and began to pay its players - previously strictly amateur - teams in the south have begun importing players from the northern professional League sides. As most come just for the season, there's no point in buying a house. so they are renting. And paying

"The relocation of rugby players is big business for us," says Sophie Emerick. of estate agent Chester-tons in Barnes. It will be even bigger next year as more Rugby League players will be loaned from their union clubs."

Other estate agents are in a scrum to cash in. Many of their staff are involved in the game; the former England player Rob Andrew was a chartered surveyor with a top estate agency. Such employers allow time off for training because it's good for the company's profile.

Some London clubs, such as the Wasps, Saracens, Harlequins and Richmond, have had to find homes for their visiting players. All of which is music to the ears of property owners in the favoured areas. A one-bedroom flat near the club can command £200 a week; two-bedroom homes £350 and three-bedroom houses up to £500 a week.

Before, it was just lucky owners near Wimbledon's lawn tennis club who bagged sports stars in need of a billet. Some paid their children's school fees, or flew off to Barbados on the proceeds. Now Barnes, Richmond and Twickenham are reaping the benefit of the collapse of the barrier between League and Union rugby. It's been likened to the demolition of the Berlin Wall.

Andy Challis, first team manager of NEC Harlequins, says: "As Rugby League now plays during the summer, the players can play for a union side until about February. Of course, they need somewhere to live, so we try to help as they don't know the area. I have been talking to estate agents and looking at houses. We like to put them in properties of a reasonable standard.

Harlequins has two League players currently on loan: New Zealander Robbie Paul, Rugby League player of the year, lent by Leeds; and Gary Connolly from Wigan.

Connolly had only five days to find a home before playing his debut match for the Harlequins. A bachelor, and happy to let Andy Challis a dainty, chintz-covered make the choice, he found himself in a pretty little mews house in Barnes. Robbie Paul, with a girlfriend and two small children, viewed a few houses before choosing a three-bedroom house in Strawberry Hill, Twickenham.

"We are based at Twickenham, so Barnes is good as it's only about five miles away, and is also near to the Riverside Club in Chiswick where

Gary trains." says Challis. The players coming down from the north have been taken aback by the cost of renting.

"I couldn't believe the cost," says Antonia Seadon, Robbie's girlfriend. "The house we are staying in now would cost about £400 a month in Bradford. Down here it's about four times that much. You pay £1,500 a month for a little box. In this area, which is good, middle class, it's as good as you get. It's quite nice, but I have to admit we were shocked."

In Bradford, the couple own a three-bedroom semi. "Up there, you could have rented half a castle with eight bedrooms for £500," adds

Prices in the south were not such a surprise to Philippe Sella, the French rugby player currently turning out for the north London club Saracens. He and his family are renting a spacious flat overlooking Regent's Park, where charges are com-monly £1,000 a week. Or to Australian Michael Lynagh, also playing for Saracens and renting in Hampstead. Fellow Australian David Campesie is also reported ready to sign up to Saracens.

It could prove harder to persuade sportsmen and their families to relocate up north, though prices are much lower there. Footballers have had more experience in the relocation game. In 1966, when England won the World Cup, there were only 10 foreign players in the British league. Now there are more than 100. All the top London clubs have foreign players: West Ham has six. Chelsea has three Italians and a Dutchman.

But even the Brazilian, Emerson signed to play for Middlesbrough for £4m - had to take his homesick fiancée Andrea da Silva back to Brazil when she declared she couldn't cope with the North-east. "I was cold and I cried all night," she said. "I felt it was a strange, terrible place. I hope I never have to return."





Importing players: Saracens has currently acquired Australian Michael Lynagh (top) who is renting in Hampstead (above) PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP, ALL SPORT: ABOVE, PHILIP MEECH

Who pays for the pollution?

Stella Bingham reports

our years ago, banker David Price and his wife Sandra paid £157,000 for their detached house on a new estate at Copford, near Colchester. Today they would be lucky to sell it for half that price. The houses were built on or near an old rubbish tip which is leaking potentially lethal methane gas. To add insult to injury, the Prices have been told they may have to pay to clean up the contaminated land.

Under the Environment Act 1995, local authorities will be responsible for identifying such land, assessing the risk and getting it cleaned up. The polluter is supposed to pay. Where the polluter cannot be traced, the duty and cost fall on the owner or occupier.

There are three principal sources of contamination," says Philip Wilbourn, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. "Some occurs naturally, such as radon gas in Cornwall. There are the historic industries, such as coal and shipbuilding. Then there are modern industries, such as chemicals. We use land differently from the way we did 100 years ago. We have acid rain now, but we don't pollute rivers with coal tar."

In theory, contamination can kill. "You could be asphyxiated by carbon dioxide. Methane gas from a landfill site can explode. Contamination may cause genetic defects, though there is no conclusive proof of this." Hundreds of thousands of

homes have been built on former industrial, mining and landfill sites. Government policy means that 60 per cent of future homes will be built on "brownfield" sites. Professionally reclaimed, such sites should be perfectly safe. But the problem could go back hundreds of years. "Nobody would dig up the plague pit in Green Park, because smallpox and plague spores survive in perpetuity," says Mr Wilbourn.

You could buy land and find that because of health and safety issues it's worthless," says Archie Read, of Knight Frank's rural consultancy department, "Local authorities should be able to point you in the direction of possible problems. Solicitors should ask about contamination

in the pre-contract inquiries. Ask the vendors if they are aware of any problems. Talk to older local residents about previous uses of the site. If you are still worried, it might be worth getting an expert to check." Do not rely on the building society survey. A land quality statement from a chartered surveyor costs between £200 and £500.

The National House-Building Council's 10-year warranty offers some protection against hazards and major damage caused to a new home by contaminants. The NHBC still advises buyers to ensure that their solicitors double-check with the builders and the local council. But such advance inquiries will not protect you if you find yourself owning contaminated land.

"The planning process must be strengthened to protect the man in the street," says Mr Wilbourn. "At the moment he is very vulnerable."

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The mere fear of contamination can blight roperty. Many houses on the opford estate are almost unsaleable, though they are not directly affected by the leaking gas. The House of Commons Environment Committee recently recommended that local authorities should keep a public register of contaminated land which had been successfully treated. This should offer some reassurance in the future. They also advised the Department of the Environment to set a one-year deadline for local authorities to inspect contaminated land that may present a significant risk.

Concern has been expressed that areas identified as contaminated might be red-lined by lenders. Sue Anderson, of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, denies this, and Philip Wilbourn is also reassuring. "Local authorities must seek out contaminated land ... but they do not need to have all land

He tells the story of a delegate who reported to a conference that the Lake District was contaminated with lead. Asked who was responsible, "she said that since the lead was 12km deep and had been there for millions of years, the appropriate person was probably God.

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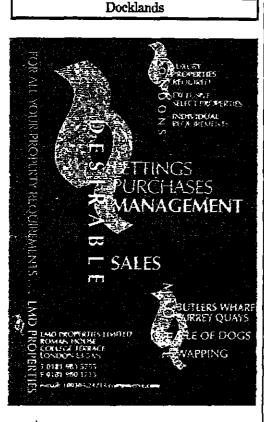
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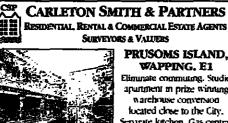
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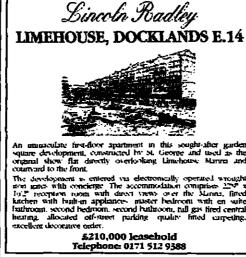


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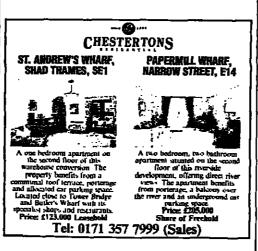
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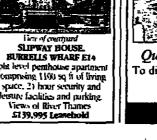
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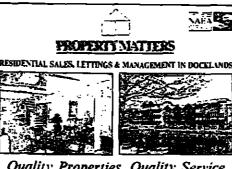
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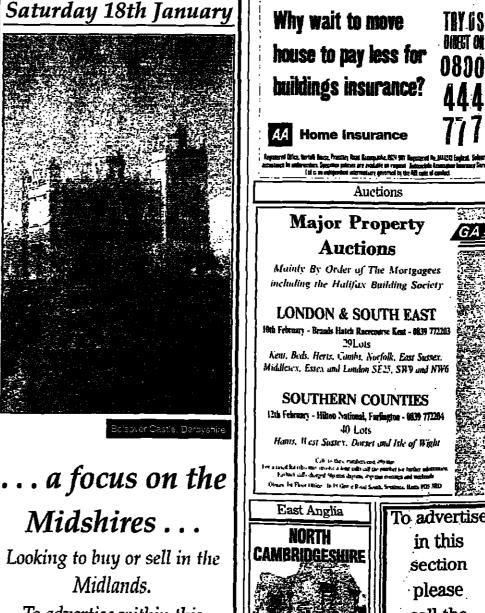
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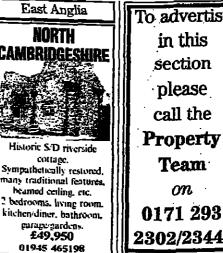
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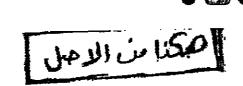
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ince I first wrote six months ago about the new stockpick-ing formula devised by Jim Slater, his record has continued to impress. His methodology, readers may recall, is based on analysing so-called "Peg factors", which represent the ratio between the prospective price/earnings ratio of a share and its forecast earnings growth in

Although Mr Slater has since added some important filters to refine his method (of which more anon), the basic principle is that a low Peg – ideally one below 0.75 – is the primary signal that a share may be worth buying. Essentially, the idea is to pick out fast growing companies whose growth potential is not yet fully valued in the market.

Come the new year and it is possible to take a fresh look at how his approach has performed. One advantage of his high profile methods is that it does at least allow others to judge how well he has marked his and their card.

The eight new year tips he selected in January 1995, for example, would have returned around 40 per cent to



Jonathan Davis

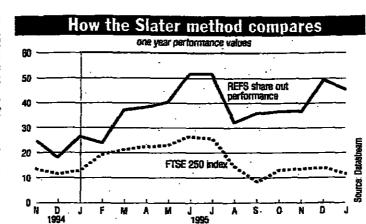
start of 1995 - some three times the return of the market as a whole. Meanwhile, Johnson Fry Slater Growth, the unit trust managed by his son Mark, which also broadly follows the Peg methodology, was the best performing fund in its sector last year, with the units rising in value by almost the same amount.

hands" we are talking about. Not suranyone who bought them all at the prisingly, the book which outlines Mr considerable tightening of the orig-

Slater's methods, Beyond the Zulu Principle, is also selling well. Deservedly so, since it is a clear and well presented summary of a method which will appeal to those private investors who like to see strong action from their share portfolio. (I should declare an interest here: Mr Slater was helped in the editing of the book by my Independent colleague, Tom Stevenson.) Equally unsurprisingly, the book

has had mostly muted reviews from the papers and in academia - no doubt because the name still resonates with memories of the collapse of Slater Walker all those years ago. But what is interesting is how little attention has so far been paid to the methodology itself, which is gen uinely innovative in UK terms. It is worth emphasising that the Peg system as Mr Slater has now refined it is much more sophisticated and securely based than the one he outlined in his first book about share selection, The Zulu Principle, a few

While Peg factors remain the pri-So these are unquestionably "hot mary screening factor, the other criteria he has now added represent a



inal selection process. By adding the requirements that cash flow should exceed earnings over one and five years, and insisting on relative strength against the market over the previous one, three and 12 months, the new methodology intentionally seeks to eliminate many of the spivvier stocks that have caught out unwary growth stock investors in the

Mr Slater himself emphasises that

the system is not mechanical: investors have to use their own judgement in deciding when and where to override the criteria. One consequence of the more rigorous criteria he now adopts is that they tend to throw up only a limited number of shares at any one time - typically 20-30 or so, sometimes fewer,

out of 2,400 or so listed companies. Many of these are small companies. It is rare for the Peg screening sparkling performance. But what without realising it.

companies. They are usually too big to grow fast and too well researched to he seriously undervalued, though some such as Forte (before the takeover by Granada) and British Aerospace have crept through the net at times in the last 18 months.

So can one argue with these impressive results? Well, of course it is early days. The system has only been tested for 18 months. It has yet to be tested in a bear market. The kind of shares that Peg factors tend to throw up are relatively small companies in fast growing sectors such as media, computer services and leisure. Concept retail stocks have been regular features: Blacks Leisure, for example, was the best performing share Slater picked last year. JJB Sports is another classic Peg stock - a successful retailing formula which is now being rapidly expanded across the country. In computer systems. Parity - a firm which provides training and consultancy to industrial and other users has been one of the best performers.

While it continues to grow, this kind of share often produces a

system to produce large Footsie happens when the market or the economy turns down? One has to think that this kind of share could be particularly vulnerable. The earnings tend to evaporate and the company finds itself with tons of unwanted stock and scores of rapidly emptying retail premises. The market in shares of this size may become dangerously thin. Slater himself acknowledges all these possibilities, though he says that he is now learning to use his statistical screening service. REFS, to pick up warning signals about some of the impending problems before they occur.

Anyone who follows Mr Slater's methods should therefore expect to be taking on some additional risk (at least viewed from an ex-post standpoint), even with the added cash flow and relative strength filters. These are not shares to put away and forget about. But that is no reason for grown adults not to look at the system to see if it suits them. After all, the great charm of stock market investing is precisely that it allows you to take as much risk as you feel comfortable with. The only real sin is to take on more risk than you need

Banking on the value of sterling

Clifford German on foreign currency accounts

aving a bank account in dollars or some other foreign currency is one of the marks of the successful homme or femme d'affaires just as surely as a Rolex watch or a Gucci bag. It conveys an aura of sophistication and worldly wisdom. and easy familiarity with life and work abroad.

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More often than not, owning a foreign currency account has enabled accountholders to impress their friends with talk of success-

The unexpected strength of value of money in foreign UK investors in the last year or so by anything up to 25 per

This trend could have some is still strengthening in antic- ernment 17 years ago. ipation of increases in UK agent Thomas Cook is tipping the pound to reach \$1.78. 8.85 French francs and 230 UK or foreign bank in the pesetas before the end of the country of origin, or in offyear. Some experts think sterling could go even higher, the Channel Islands, the Cay-rency you choose. which would further increase paper losses for UK residents

Even that was not strictly holding accounts in foreign

But all trends come to an end and the time will surely



fully hedging themselves ride the return of the pendu-

Holding hard currencies sterling against the dollar, like dollars, marks and yen the mark, the yen and other has, after all, been the right traditional "hard" currencies thing to do for most of the been entirely legal ever since currency accounts held by the whole structure of exchange controls was impe-Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe in the first few months way to run because the pound of the new Conservative gov-

> Since then anyone with a man Islands, or the Bahamas. necessary when UK and began offering investors the

come for shrewd investors to rency accounts without even going abroad. Most UK and against a depreciating pound. lum and make money on a foreign banks in London will But it does not always work bank account in foreign cur- open accounts in a range of

But small investors may find that the image is less glamorous than the reality. Current accounts offer a has drastically reduced the past half century, and it has cheque book and are ideal for paying bills and banking rent on foreign property, although if this is what you want it for, riously swept away by Mrs you need to be sure the bank you open your account with has a correspondent relationship with the bank your counterparty uses abroad.

In particular, if you want an interest rates this year. Travel few pounds to spare could account in one of the lesser open a bank account in for- currencies like escudos or eign currencies either with a drachmas it might be best to open an account with a bank which has branches in the UK shore banking locations like and in the country whose cur-

Most banks want a minimum balance of around \$3.000 or the equivalent in foreign banks in London other currencies, to operate the account without charge. chance to open foreign cur- For that you will not be

expecting any interest. But if you choose a bank which will give you a cheque book and cash card, you can draw currency from your account whenever and wherever you are travelling in your chosen currency area, and if you make a lot of transfers it can still work out cheaper than buying and selling small sums of currency to meet each transaction.

It is also a valid alternative to using your credit card. which still leaves you open to unfavourable exchange rates when your account is debited.

For the same sort of sum you can open a short-term deposit account which will earn some interest. But to get a reasonable return you need something like \$10,000 and to tie it up for up to six

It is important not to get carried away by the rates on appear in most financial market reports. These refer to big sums in excess of £1m-worth of currency.

Even now UK retail investors will be lucky to get 3 per cent on a US dollar account tied up for a year, 2 per cent on a Deutschmark account, 1-2 per cent on Swiss francs and less than 1 per cent in yen, compared with up to 6 per cent in sterling.

You will also have to buy the foreign currency to put in the account. That could swallow 6-8 per cent of the capital. If you are not deterred, almost a currency account for you. in the UK or the Channel Islands or in the currency area you

But you will usually do best with a bank with branches here and abroad, like Citibank

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#Source: Micropal. Based on a UK savings account for investments of £2,500 and over, 10 years to 2,9.%. Full written details are available on request. Any financial advice given will relate only to the products of GA Life.

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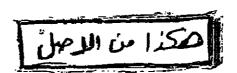
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Help me out of this trap

Adviser Bryan Fisher considers a reader's double-edged problem

In the light of current press speculation over plans to run down the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) I began considering my own position.

My problem is twofold - negative equity and inadequate pension provision. At 41 I am anxious to get my financial situation sorted. The pension I currently have has been in place for four years, I contribute £50 per month to it and I have contracted out of Serps.

out to cover the cost of recent refurbishment and now on top of this the freeholder has advised that all tenants must pay around £3,000 to cover the cost of general maintenance.

My flat is currently valued at around £39,000. I am concerned that the flat won't on to it, but I am trapped. I cannot see a way particulars of your present policy. out given my negative equity, current and projected outgoings and inadequate pension provision. Can you help? Ĵ B, London

of escalating costs it is unlikely to be sustained

assume from the information given, was four years ago when you took out the personal pension, which appears to be the right decision. Contracting out is not a once in a lifetime decision, however. As with most financial planning

matters it will require reviewing regularly. Now is the best time to increase your pen-In addition, my flat has negative equity of around £17,000. I have a personal loan taken your 60th birthday the compound growth on your early contributions will be far more valuable than the growth can possibly be on the last few years' premiums. It is therefore essential that you attempt to maximise the level of your investment as soon as you can. Whether this investment is into your existing plan or another appreciate sufficiently to justify me hanging is impossible to advise on without analysing the

sion Plan and receive tax relief at your highest rate payable. For example, on a salary of A I believe you have every reason to be concerned about the future of Serps. In ment would be £5,000 per annum or £416.66 principle it was a good idea. However, because monthly. As an employee you will receive basic ing society will allow this. Currently they will

be £316.66, in the current tax year. Your curendowment policy you have. You have contracted out of Serps which, I rent investment of £50 per month equates to which, even with strong investment performance, is unlikely to provide you with the level

of retirement income you would want. On the property front I do not think you should be too concerned about the negative equity in your flat. Property prices are rising faster than at any time since the peak of 1989. with London and the South-east leading the

I would be concerned by the "general maintenance" bill you are likely to receive. You do not mention what advice you have already taken on this, but I would strongly suggest before, uting with any money that the tenants col tively seek legal advice.

You may sh to consider the possibility of switching existing interest-only mortgage to a repay at one. This will then mean that to a repay at one. This will then mean that monthly payment pays off capital which . I have the effect of reducing your negative equity with every payment you make. The only problem may be whether the build-

rate tax relief and the "net cost" to you would have a legal charge on the property and the

You will need to obtain a surrender value an investment of just 2.4 per cent of your salary for your endowment from the insurance company. As you have negative equity the building society may wish to reduce the outstanding balance with this surrender money. Therefore you will need to ask the Building Society first of all whether this switch is possible and secondly check the monthly cost to make sure the repayments are not excessively expensive. This will depend on several factors such as the outstanding term of the mortgage which was not given.

Overall, according to your income/expenditure analysis you appear to have surplus funds which, if the appropriate steps are taken over the next few years, should put you into a much stronger position financially.

Brvan Fisher is an independent financial adviser and the financial planning manager at Berkeley Financial Planning in Coventry. Readers are invited to write to him c/o The Independent. Letters should not exceed 250 words. The advice is for guidance only and no action should be taken 🤸 without receiving specific and professional advice.

Give to charity but keep your options open

Clifford German examines new schemes that allow more flexibility in donating money

any people would like to give money to charity but are worried about possibly finding themselves short of income and capital to meet their own finan-

In an attempt to meet this genuine worry the Charities Insurance Association has devised a new method of giving which allows donors the opportunity of drawing a tax-free bequest. income of 5 per cent for their own use, and if

pack should call 01622 606355. The new plan ance policy which can be assigned to the is called Legacy Enhancement and the charity and increases the eventual pay-out bequest is invested in a with-profits invest- when the donor eventually dies.

likely future bequest which helps it plan its own future finances. Investors can, however,

elect to leave all the income to roll-up in the

A third option allows the investor to draw they do need to do so they can reclaim the the income and then covenant it to the charity, a fourth alternative allows the Readers who would like a free information investor to use the income to buy a life assur-

Exactly how much depends on the donor's age and life expectancy, but a 65-year-old woman could more than double the value of the original bequest.

Investors can also make monthly contributions to buy a life assurance policy out of income without actually committing a lump

New ways of encouraging bequests to charities are more necessary than ever because the calls on their resources continue to increase while all but a handful of high profile charities have seen their annual incomes shrink in the last two years because potential givers think the National Lottery is look-

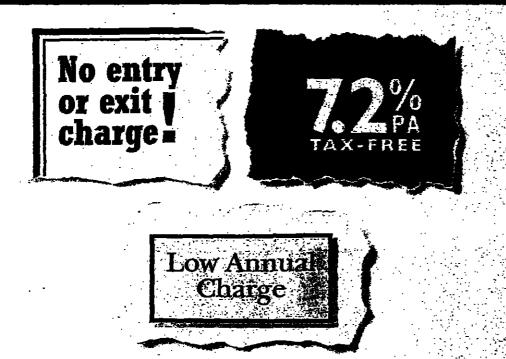
In fact most charities are net losers from the lottery, and urgently need to tap streams of cash and concern.

Charities do have tax-exempt status, which means they do not pay income tax on the income they generate and they can claim tax rebates on gifts which individuals have made out of taxed income provided the donors sign a covenant to make annual donations for five

consecutive years. So if a top-rate taxpayer pays £60 a year into the scheme, the charity gets £40 from the taxman.

But many donors are reluctant to make a five-year commitment in case they are unable

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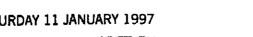
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So we signed over our home to the bank

As orders flooded in, two knitwear entrepreneurs chose the wrong way to raise funds



Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Patrick and Jane Gottelier, both 45, are partners in the Artwork knitwear brand, with outlets such as Harvey Nichols, Fenwick, Liberty and Whistles. They met as post-graduates at the Central School of Art in 1975, Their knitwear is now sold in 15 countries including the US and Japan, and as design consultants their clients include Marks & Spencer, Shanghai Tang und Dewhirst Lorien,

44 ane and I started our own business largely because we were unemployable. Neither of us were corporation people, though we did try having proper jobs. After college, Jane joined the BBC's costume department while I went to work for Marks & Spencer, but within 18 months we realised that we'd only be happy working for ourselves.

Our hig break came in 1977 when one of our customers asked if we could turn our hands to producing original sweaters by updating the traditional Fair Isle design. That led to orders from the fledgling fashion chain Whistles and from Macy's in New York.

The only problem was that we didn't have any money; we were living from hand to mouth. We could afford to buy the yarn for couple of dozen sweaters, but with serious orders coming in we had a cash-flow crisis. By this time we were living in a house in

My biggest mistake

London's East End which we had managed to acquire for the princely sum of £8,250. It needed a lot of renovation, but we managed to get a grant to do it up. Around the same time we exhibited at our first trade fair, which was in New York. We were realistic about what we could take on in terms of production, and by lunchtime on the first day we had so many orders that we were forced to close our books. We felt that we'd already bitten off more than we could chew; somehow we had to find a way of raising enough money

to buy the yarn and pay the knitters. Our bank manager, we thought at the time, was great. He said words to the effect of: 'You've got a house ... property's doing really well ... sign this bit of paper and we'll give you an overdraft.' But in reality, that overdraft was not based on the size of our order book, the quality of our customers, our ability to manage the business or to manufacture the goods. It was based solely on his belief that there was good equity in our home.

We made our first mistake at that trade

fair. If we had only kept our order book open for the full three days we probably could have got enough customers to pay in advance to finance all of the production costs. We wouldn't have needed to sign our house over to the bank, which, of course, was our biggest mistake.

Our business grew rapidly throughout the Eighties, and since property prices continued to rise, we always had enough collateral to fund our increasing costs. We had great press coverage, we sold to the best shops throughout the world, our turnover was getting bigger every year and we were able to earn a living.

Profit, as a separate entity, was not something that we had ever considered to be a requirement, and nor did the bank. But in 1990, property prices plunged and our bank,

like many others, panicked. The manager responded by transferring two thirds of our overdraft to a short-term loan. 'Restructuring your finances' was the euphemism used. Ironically, our order book was still booming and we appeared to be doing incredibly well. We felt he had found a way of being able to help us finance the production costs. Looking back, I don't think it's possible to be more naïve.

In reality it meant that suddenly we were committed to enormous monthly repay- Corinne Simcock,

ments. We kept thinking we had the money to pay the bills, but we didn't, because it had already been deducted by the bank. And we weren't generating enough profit to finance that sort of drain on our working capital.

We didn't just owe money to the bank, we'd built a business with a turnover of £1.5m which employed 1,200 knitters and we owed money to them as well. Our order book, which represented our income for the next six months, was nowhere near what we needed, and we were forced to call in the receivers with the result that we lost our home.

These days we stick to what we're good at, which is designing. We don't attempt to finance the production costs; we have a trade finance company for that, using the customers' orders as collateral. Next year our turnover will be more than £1m again, and, while we still don't have our own home, at least the knit-

ters have been paid what they were owed. The most important lesson is you should never, under any circumstances, put your house up as equity to raise money for your business. If anyone advises you to do it, sack them, because if the business is sound, there are options that don't involve risking your

Patrick and Jane Gottelier were talking to

Deciphering pensions

By Clifford German

Pension providers are gradually making themselves more user-friendly, but altogether too slowly. The second annual report of the Personal Investment Authority this week condemns many of the traditional providers for failing to reduce the charges they levy on personal pensions. A handful have reduced their charges in the last two years, but they are mostly companies whose performance has been exposed as sub-standard and who are not attracting the share of new business they need. ...

But they are being matched by a number of successful performers who have taken advantage of better disclosure of rivals' charges to raise their own towards the industry average. Some providers are also refusing to cut charges on pensions sold through low-cost outlets.

Although pension

providers have, by and large, complied with the requirements to publish their charges and to show how much charges will reduce the value of a pension fund over 20 or 30 years (the figures will make your hair curl), they are still wrapping the true meaning up in concepts that the average punter does not understand "Reduction in yield", for example, is the jargon word for the percentage by which the fund's value is reduced by charges over its lifetime, but the concept is rarely explained

to the layman. In any case, the reduction is less important than the actual yield before and after charges, and that can only be illustrated by guesstimates of a constant increase, conventionally 6, 9 and 12 per cent a year in

the value of the fund. But that does not mean that no progress is being made. Eagle Star this week started selling no-frills. low-cost personal pension plans by telephone in direct competition with Virgin

Direct and Scottish Widows. The premiums are invested in full with no deductions, there are no initial charges, the management charges are just £2 a month plus 1 per cent of the fund, and unlike Virgin the funds are actively managed. But Eagle Star's unique selling point is the promise to refund all fees and charges in full and to transfer the current value of the fund in full if investors become dissatis-

fied during two years. Edinburgh-based fund manager Ivory & Sime has launched a pension scheme investing in investment trusts and marketed exclusively through independent financial advisers. Contributions to pensions based on investment trusts are invested in full instead of being subjected to the bid/offer spreads which discourage many people from investing in unit trust-based pension funds. Investors who take out an I&S pension will pay their advisers for advice but they can negotiate commission rebates. The plan will offer flexibility to raise or lower contributions, take contribution breaks or take early retirement, all without

Abbey Life has also made a gesture towards improved information for potential buyers, aimed at the 30 per cent of the working population who have no private pension plans and the 35 per cent who contribute £50 a month or less. Almost half the population thinks £50 a month would buy a 30year-old an adequate pension, against a true figure of £250 a month. Abbey Life is offering the first 500 Independent readers who apply a free computer disk or a ready reckoner for those who have no computer, which will show them how much they need to set aside. Call Abbey Life on 0800 202040 and specify disk or ready

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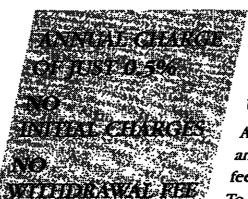
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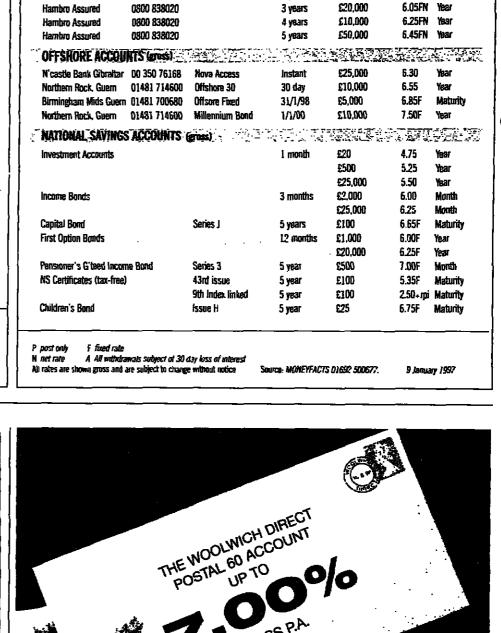
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TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY

Whatever happened to...

Acid rain?

Acid rain was going to cause the destruction of the human race. As it silently ate away at the cracks of British heritage, abroad it was destroying the rain forests and stealing our oxygen. 17 years ago this month, a report was released saying that acid rain is seriously contaminating Britain's lakes and rivers. Public and press combined to bring the problem combined to bring the problem to the attention of the politicians: a fuss was kicked up and action was supposedly taken. But has this had any effect?

What is acid rain?

For a long time it was thought that it was caused simply by the sulphur dioxide emissions resulting from the burning of coal. But this may not be the most impor-tant cause after all and over the last few years, nitrous oxides have been increasingly blamed.

57 million Britons sweat and exhale between 2,500 and 14,000 tonnes of ammonia every year. This is as potent an air polluter as other chemicals that are produced when fuels are burnt.

The casualties

In July last year, acid rain was blamed for causing £30,000 damage to 50 classic cars at a rally in the Borders. Cam-bridge's focal point, the 550-year-old King's College Chapel, is also being gnawed away by the contaminated rainwater. But Britain was never really under too much threat from acid rain: far more damaging are the effects it has in South East Asia.

British pollutants also caused acid rain in Sweden and the

Swedish environment minister accused Britain of threatening his country's economy and envi-ronment by failing to do its fair share in cutting European air pollution. His Norwegian coun-terpart. Thorbjorn Berntsen, was not so polite, calling the Sec-retary of State for Environment

a drittsekk – shitbag. What was done about it? At first, the blame for acid rain was placed squarely on the shoulders of sulphur dioxide,

branch to branch. And finally.

there were things that could

Walk (Radio 3, Sunday) was

a mildly pretentious look at

what our peculiar method of

locomotion has come to mean

in the 20th century when, in

Patrick Wright's phrase, it has

been reinvented as a philo-

sophical investigation perched on legs". He'd gathered an

impressive - or depressing,

depending on your point of

view - amount of evidence in

support of this statement:

Richard Mabey on walking as

a means of staking out terri-

tory: Richard Long reciting

one of his walking poems (and

coming across, in the absence

of any visual stimulation, as

surprisingly pedestrian);

Netherlands. In 1993, the and consequently expensive action was taken to try and curb the emissions produced from burning coal. But now there is confusion over just how potent the effects of sulphur dioxide are.

The amount of nitrogen oxides in the air is increasing. Just one cause is increasing emissions from cars, rising 38 per cent between 1986 and 1991 despite the introduction of catalytic

controlled experiment in Liphook in Hampshire was conducted to test the effect of sul-phuric acid and ozone on trees. Five plot of forest have been continuously furnigated with sul-phur dioxide or ozone ever since to test the theory that this causes the trees to die. They thrived.

According to the Department of Environment, things could not be better. In December they

sign up to the UNECE Second Sulphur Protocol which commits Britain to cutting sulphur dioxide emissions by 80 per cent of the levels of the 1980s.

announced that the L/K was

among the first countries to

Elsewhere, the outlook is not so rosy. According to official sources, the use of energy, and with it the emissions of sulphur dioxide, will treble during the

next 20-30 years.

Sam Coates



past the advanced spliff-rolling. intervals are the legs impossibly slim woman dangling

Ä,

P

ob used to play Rugby. He dropped out for a year because of injuries and was taken to Circus Space by a friend. Ordinary people, when they've got injuries, take up low-impact sports like sitting around, or moaning about getting old. Not Rob. He took up tumbling, then acrobalance and then the flying trapeze. Now he works there as well. This is how modern youth runs away to join the circus.

We're not very good at circus in this country. Indeed, "circus skills" has become a shorthand catch-all insult, like "trainspotting", "anorak" and "chalet girl". The phrase conjures images of drunks in freezing caravans supplementing their income through unlocked windows. That, or blokes with beards and ponytails crosslegged on the floor, running Whizzing foam-rubber balls up their arms while giving expositions on

Circus Space aims to change Window at this: built in the shell of Shoredregular they run BTECs, practice for pros and classes in everything from knife throwing and whip cracking to clowning. So deadly is their aim, of an the venues for the upcoming London International Mime Festival.

> Waiting in the reception area (parquet floor, round tables, No Smok-

what's what. I peer through a picture window. Six people in loose garb - mostly sweats, but there's a T-shirt and clown pants trapeze in there-bounce off a trampette and starfish in the air. Whizzing past the window at regular in-tervals are the legs of an impossibly slim woman dangling from a trapeze. I'm reflecting on the rule learned and forgotten at school - that only girls with straight hair are good at gym when a man speaks behind me. "I just had a cup of coffee," he says. "I haven't had one in ages. It's made me go really hyper. Really stressed." Ah.

required for longterm partnership with young girl performing adagio and aerial work. Directed by top circus director" and "for sale: Japanese Unicycle, 24ins wheel, very little used". Rob's a nice guy, even though he's on a mission, like fit people always are, to stress how easy their craft is. "You don't have to be hyper-fit at all," he says. "It's not a long-capacity sport. And all of them tone you. You find your muscles get stronger quite quickly." The thought of my keyboard-shot arms trying to hold me onto a bar for more than two seconds

turns me green. On the petit volante, impossibly slim woman swings forward, pointing her toes, back, lifting her burn to avoid the platform ("when people start," says Rob, "you see them hitting their legs all the time"), flips over and hangs by her legs. A bearded man hooks his feet into

the cradle, 20ft in the air, drops to the ceiling by a series of

ing signs) for Rob to show me to vertical from his knees, and proceeds to pull up to horizontal using only his stomach muscles. Your turning needs to be more washboard than washbag to do something like that.

The tumbling class continues. It's led by Adrian, once a British Youth Gymnast. His left forearm is in plaster. "He did it at his gym," says Rob. "He was on the high bars, doing spins. They wear these gloves to protect their hands. His glove snagged." Adrian kept spinning while his hand didn't. He broke his arm in two places, "Clean breaks, though," says Rob.

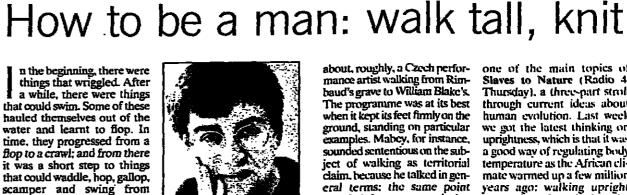
The tumblers queue for the

hang bits of A4 paper. They say so it's 4ft thick - upright. Most things like "male partner land on their backs, or pitch forward and finish the manoeuvre prone on the plastic. One girl she's got the ponytail bit right, but the rest isn't following naturally - has little luck even hitting the trampette. She takes a run-up, goes "oops, sorry", runs back again, runs up again, goes "oops, sorry" again and gets the giggles. A man in trainers has been walking forwards and backwards on the tight-wire - it's about 2ft off the ground - solidly for about an hour and a half. One would have thought boredom would have set in, but tight-wire obviously has equivalent properties to computer games.

The people on the trapeze what do you call them? swingers? trapezoids? - take it in turns to strap on a safety harness called a Lunge, though whether this name was derived from lungeing horses or lungeing towards the ground is shrouded in mystery. Secured

pulleys, it prevents the athlete from plummeting too quickly. "You need it." Rob had said earlier. "When I first started, I was concentrating so hard on my trick that I forgot to hold on to the trapeze." It's fun watching people let go and swoop down in slomo: it reminds me of Lulu as Peter Pan.

They fling themselves from the bar and catch the hands of the man on the cradle. The tumblers come off the floor and prepare to go out into the night. Everyone, it seems, has come by bike. London's bike riders are a serious lot. The sub-group no longer consists of people who've lost their driving licences; nowadays it's a way of defining yourself. As they strap on anti-taxi protection, they make plans. "You here Monday?" "Sure am. It's part of my New Year's Resolution to get my arse over here more often." "Yeah. It's part of everybody's. That's why Rob comes back from the trampette; they've graduated to the classes are so full. Give 'em shop and leads me up a mid-air sometsaults, trying to hit a couple of weeks, though, and corridor. At the foot of the stairs the crash-mat - doubled up now they'll have gone off the idea."



Robert Hanks the week on radio

and Wordsworth, and feeling how the rhythms of their walks infected their poetry; Iain Sinclair (I assume - names and voices weren't always easy to connect) on following in the footsteps of William Blake, and seeing how his rambles through London were bodied out in the rambling visions of "Jerusalem"; and Tom Paulin on the vocabulary of walking - sauntering, "soodling", "going on the dander".

At times, we seemed to be

about, roughly, a Czech performance artist walking from Rimbaud's grave to William Blake's. The programme was at its best when it kept its feet firmly on the ground, standing on particular examples. Mabey, for instance, sounded sententious on the subject of walking as territorial claim, because he talked in general terms: the same point sounded far more convincing when Tom Paulin conjured the spectre of Drumcree (he was also good on the strangeness of walking in woods for someone brought up in unwooded Northem Ireland). And the sheer weight of data offered on the connection between pactry and walking made that persuasive: nobody mentioned it, but presumably this has something to do with why lines are divided up

into feet. Still, you did feel that all this emphasis on the spiritual significance of walking obscured a more important point - it's didn't, after all, evolve into bipedal animals because it made us into more effective wandering away from the path, poets but because it offered us Richard Holmes on following and it ended in a very flat- some selective advantage at I somehow in the footsteps of Coleridge footed fashion, with a poem some time in the past. This is learn to knit.

one of the main topics of Slaves to Nature (Radio 4. Thursday), a three-part stroll through current ideas about human evolution. Last week we got the latest thinking on uprightness, which is that it was a good way of regulating body temperature as the African climate warmed up a few million years ago: walking upright exposes less of your body to the noonday sun and more of it to cooling air-currents: it also uses less energy than knuckletrailing. Once this was sorted out, too, we could stop panting quite so much, which made speech possible.

All this was plausible but somehow rather dissatisfying. Much more exciting was this week's suggestion that what gave Homo supiens the edge over other hominid species was that we developed needlework. You can evolve all the layers of subcutaneous fat you like, goes the thinking. mechanical significance. We but if somebody else has come up with a decent shirt then once the next ice age rolls in they're going to be laughing at you. It's irrational, I know, but I somehow feel I ought to

A right royal linguistic revolution

he last time you looked in a dictionary, "royal" was an adjective. The next time, it will have mutated into a noun. "The royals" was the sobriquet used by one and all on Monarchy: The Nation Decides (TTV, Tues), from Trevor McDonald all the way down to the born-again socialist Max Clifford. We now refer to the "royals" instead of the Royal Family, much as we say "privates" instead of "private parts": the second half of the phrase has been cut adrift, marooned by mass linguistic indolence. Forget the telephonic vote of confidence: that ought to tell the sovereign a thing or two about how highly the monarchy is esteemed. Even loyal subjects say "royals" as if it's cockney rhyming slang. (As in royal yacht: snot. Or

royal box: bollocks etc) Given the ugly mood of the debate, it's no wonder that the most strident panellist was a popular thriller writer with a basic training in catering to the mob. Frederick Forsyth took the pulse of the audience and concluded that only bloodcurdling arrogance would earn him the elbow room to have his say. "Shut up and listen", the words he scowled at anyone else on the panel who dared to challenge him, could turn into one of those catchphrases inadvertently handed down to the nation by television. A bit like



Jasper Rees

"Do I not like that" (or, according to Carlton's exhaustive research, "Do I not like that

Among the multitude of panellists invited by Roger Cook to say their piece in 10 seconds was Rosalind Miles, captioned here as a historian. When she cropped up two nights earlier on FutureWatch (BBC1, Sun) she was billed as a psychologist and sociologist. Assuming she didn't switch careers some time on Monday, we can attribute the discrepancy to one of two causes. Either Carlton deemed the longer job description too polysyllabic for an audience in no mood for anything but short, sharp Anglo-Saxon. Or they simply made a mistake, to go with all the others jostling noisily under the vast overarching

AA Roadwatch

Lee Valley Viaduct to add lanes, flyovers

and tunnels to the North Circular.

Parker-Bowles woman").

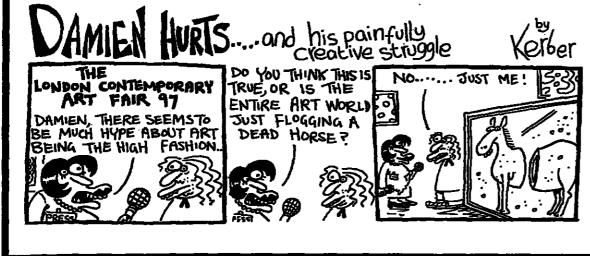
mistake of the programme's actual existence. Later that night, the people's channel redeemed itself with

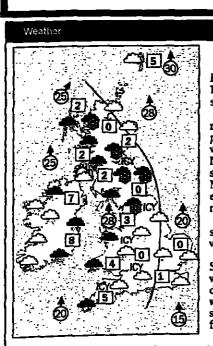
Avi Lewis's wonderfully roomy profile of David Bowie: An reasons even the baying monarparallel interview in Changes: a single list. Bowie at 50 (BBC2, Sat). There designed their interviews to be as much about themselves as about their interviewee. Yentob in particular, who made a seminal rockumentary about Bowie in the mid-Seventies, was revis-

his own creative peak. But the textbook tells of two ways to make an arts documentary, and here they both tive interview, and the mimetic essay that pays its subject the compliment of imitation. Yentob kicked off on top of a skyscraper in Manhattan, affording a clear, lofty view of straight lines. Lewis, meanwhile, was down there in the mayhem of the streets, hunting for Ziggy among the muddle of cultural signposts. Yentob included a clip from his old Omnibus film of Bowie cut-and-pasting his lyrics. In more exploratory style, Lewis opted to do the shuffling

for him, editing his answers into an illuminating new order. It's been done before in Bowie profiles, but never as resourcefully. In one wittily reductive sequence, the grab-bag of Earthling at 50 (ITV, Tucs). For names Bowie dropped in the course of the interview were chist mob might be able to clubbed together into a halfwork out, turned up in the minute index; there the man same week as Alan Yentob's was, distilled to the essence of

One of Bowie's bons mots was an unavoidable overlap: claimed that "the 21st century the questions, the answers, and began in the 1970s". We got the fact that both interviewers round to confronting the moral quandaries it might throw up in Future Watch, the week's other debating chamber. The set was a steel steal from Bowie's Glass Spider tour (or, to its friends. the White Elephant tour). In iting not only Bowie's but also the chair, gesticulating like an unfulfilled mime artist, was television's upmarket sensationalist Michael Buerk. Bowie's career may preach the value of were: the conventional narra- eclecticism, but like historianpsychologist-sociologist Rosalind Miles, how many jobs can Buerk credibly hold down? When he read the lead item on The Nine O'Clock News (BBC1, Thurs) about yachtsman Tony Bullimore's miraculous escape, you could just picture him introducing the same item on 999. Newsreaders like McDonald and Buerk are hired to bring moral authority to their extramural work, but the more widely they rent it out, the more that authority is eroded.





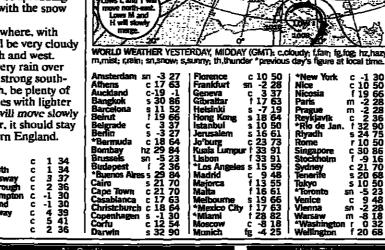
General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

Pressure will be low to the north and west of the British Isles over the next few days with a mild southwesterly flow,

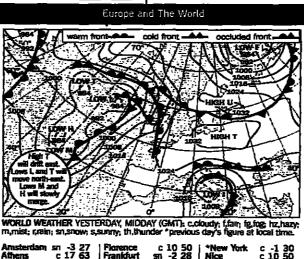
Today, sleet and snow over Scotland will turn to rain as strong southerly winds bring a rise in temperature. However, the Northern Isles will start dry with rain, sleet and strengthening winds to come. Northern Ireland will get some rain and a strong southerly wind, but it will be milder than of late. Meanwhile, rain, sleet and snow will be spreading east across England and Wales, but with the snow mostly on northern hills.

Sunday will be milder almost everywhere, with

southwesterly winds. However, it will be very cloudy with some rain or drizzle in the north and west. Monday and Tuesday will see showery rain over Scotland and Northern Ireland with strong southwesterly winds. There should, though, be plenty of dry weather across England and Wales with lighter winds. The wetter, windler weather will move slowly southeast around midweek. However, it should stay fine and dry across central and eastern England.



isles of Sc Jersey Liverpool Lizard London Manchestr Newcastle Today NO₂ Mode Good Good Good Good AM HT PM HT SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good 3.00 7.4 15.28 7.5 .4:25pm to 8:11am .4:18pm to 8:13am London S England Wales C England N England Scotland .4:26pm to 8:11am .4:19pm to 8:13am 0.17 9.9 12.40 10.1 8.40 14.5 21.07 14.4 4:14pm to 8:20am .4:15pm to 8:19am 4:03pm to 8:25am 4:09pm to 8:41am .4:05pm to 8:24am .4:11pm to 8:40am 7.43 8.0 19.48 8.1 Hull (Albert Dock) 1.42 3.6 14.02 3.7



Out and about with AA Roadwatel cal 0336 401 for the latest local and na-tional traffic news, Source: The Automobile

A38 Comwell, Turktown, near Bodmin.

Temporary traffic lights are likely to cause

Devon A381. Salcombe dip, Teignmouth

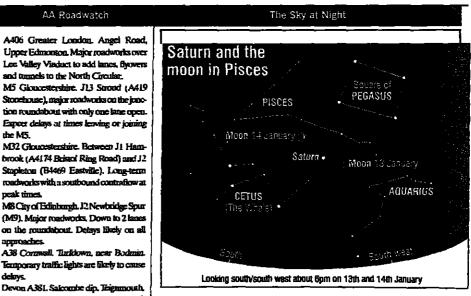
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A35 Durset, Barrack Road, Christchurch.

Lane closed both ways for work on a new

fic control at times.

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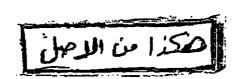


he next seven days see the Moon waxing from a modest crescent this evening to a substantial gibbous Moon by the end of the week. Our natural satellite makes a complete ciruit of the sky each month, so its position against the background of stars changes noticeably from night to

night, as do its rising and setting time.

On Monday and Tuesday (the 13th and 14th), the Moon acts as a useful signpost for finding the planet Saturn in the early evening sky. On Monday, the Moon lies just below Saturn in the south-western sky. By the next night, it is somewhat above the planet. During the day the pair will have passed within two degrees of each other. The dance of the Moon and Saturn takes place in the somewhat inconspicuous zodiacal constellation of Pisces. The Moon and naked-eye planets routinely make close encounters in the sky since their paths are all confined to a relatively narrow band of constellations.

Jacqueline Mitton





The big picture

Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould Sat 10.55pm BBC2

Before you go and see the much raved-about Shine, here's a chance to compare it with another virtuoso piece about a pianist - François Girard's excellent and truly original movie about the eccentric Canadian ivories tickler Glenn Gould (above). Gould's life (he died in 1982 aged 50) is remembered in 32 brief snatches (some dramatised, others featuring the real Gould) - a structuring device borrowed from Bach's Goldberg Variations.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert



TX: Children of the Revolution Sat 7.35pm BBC2 Naked Classics Sun 7.30pm C4 Assignment Sun 9pm BBC2 Ivanhoe Sun 9.20pm BBC1 People's Century Sun 10.30pm BBC1

ir Walter Scott's medieval romance, Ivanhoe of Ivanhoe, but he translates better in the flesh, as it history. By coincidence or not, the ongoing People's (published in 1819), has had two notable screen were. The adaptation is by Deborah Cook and the Century (Sun BBC1), now dumped on to late Sunday Versions made of it - a jolly 1958 TV series with direction, by Stuart Orme, delights, as it should, in the a fresh-faced Roger Moore in the title role, and the full-blooded1952 film starring namesakes Robert and Elizabeth Taylor. The book is also responsible for a Good stuff. I shouldn't be surprised if this becomes pallid 1982 TV-movie starring Anthony Andrews, of all people, as the swashbuckling avenger knight.

There is nothing pallid about the BBC's new Ivanhoe (Sun BBC1), which delights in the muck and realism of 12th-century life in a way that Scott's historically wobbly novel never did. Ivanhoe, in case you didn't know, is King Richard I's righthand seigneur, falsely accused of betraying the Lionheart to the blackmailing Austrians. He returns to England to clear his name, betroth himself to the already betrothed Rowena and generally rid the kingdom of weaselly Prince John (a delicious cameo of depraved weakness by Ralph Brown). The stills of actor Steven Waddington (imagine the Liverpool defender Mark Wright with a bad perm) make you worry that he might be in the Anthony Andrews class stunning insight into a little understood moment in

out-and-out romance of the piece (eyes are lighted in moments of passionate significance, for example). the Poldark de nos jours.

The other must-see of the weekend is a repeat -David Hinton's Bafta Award-winning film, Children of the Revolution (Sat BBC2), reuniting classical musicians who studied together at Beijing's Central Conservatoire during the Cultural Revolution. "Studied" is a relative term here, as most of their time was spent forming Red Guard units, beating and "re-educating" their teachers, and categorising com-posers as either "useful and harmless" (Beethoven fell into this one), "useless and harmless" or "useless and harmful". Eventually Chairman Mao had no more use for his child crusaders and packed them off to Inner Mongolia, where they had nothing left to do but scheme of things is articulated by a pimp, who offers till the semi-barren fields and purge each other. A

evening, looks at the 20 years of Mao's "great leap forward". For the truer understanding of this tumultuous epoch, though, catch Children of the Revolution.

Back with classical musicians, Naked Classics (Sun C4) this week looks at child prodigies - including a 10-year-old Korean girl who knocks off perfect violin adagios like most children her age knock off blotchy water colours of crooked houses and stick people. It's up to Nigel Kennedy, once a child prodigy himself before he was re-invented in his thirties as a punk rebel, to read out the dictionary definition of a prodigy - "something monstrous or abnormal".

Assignment (Sun BBC2) exposes another destination for paedophile sex tourism, Sri Lanka, According to the UN, one in five tourists to this beautiful but dirt-poor island, come to have sex with under-age children - mainly boys. The childrens's value in the an undercover journalist an all-in package for \$50 of "a hotel, air-conditioning, a boy, Fanta Cola ... ".



The big match World Professional Darts Sat 4pm BBC1

The only sport unlikely to be affected by the weather this weekend is the Embassy World Darts Championship. For those of you hitherto unconcerned with the upheavals in the world of feathers, the sport is going the way of boxing, with the top players fighting it out in the Sky-sponsored WDC World Darts Championship (current champ Phil Taylor), while the rump (or should that be the gut?) throw for the Embassy World Championship down in deepest Surrey. Bullseye refugee Tony Green (above) is your commentator.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.05 The Pink Panther (R) (7555695). * 7.25 News and Weather (3932701). * 7.30 Children's BBC: Iznogoud. 7.40 Speed Racer. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest.

8.30 The New Adventures of Superman. 9.15 Live and Kicking,

12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Racing from Leopardstown. 1.15 Tennis –
Sydney International: highlights of Tim Henman's semi-final match against Goran Ivanisevic. 1.30 Racing from Leopardstown. 1.45 Tennis: Preview of the Australian Open, which begins in Melbourne next week. 2.00 Racing from Leopardstown: the 2.10 Ladbroke Hurdle in Ireland, Europe's most lucrative handicap hurdle. 2.15 Tennis. 2.30 Racing from Leopardstown, 2.45 Olympic Magazine: a look ahead at some of the sports in next year's Winter olympics from Nagano in Japan. 3.30 Table Tennis. 3.55 Footbalf Half-times. 4.00 Darts – First semi-final of the Embassy World

Championship. See The big match, above. 4.40 Final Score (S) (21104614). 5.20 News and Weather (9338430).

5.30 Regional News and Sport (263508). 5.35 Cartoon (194148). 5.45 The Simpsons. Nice to see this work of genius getting the wider appreciation it deserves (and check the gathering moral indignation from the Telegraph/Spectator end of the political spectrum). This week, Homer snitches on Krusty the Clown

after seeing him commit a robbery (\$) (510492). 6.10 Due South (\$) (537966). * 6.55 Noel's House Party (\$) (345072).

7.50 The National Lottery Live (S) (262968). * 8.05 Casualty. Charlie and Baz understandably freak out when nanny Margaret turns up at Holby A & E with baby Louis and a blood-stained nappy (455879). 8.55 News and Sport (Followed by Weather) (921985). 9.14 National Lottery Update (456782).

9.15 Deadly Invasion (Rockne S O'Bannon 1994 US). Killer bees from South America move north to terrorise an all-American family. Kind of gets you rooting for the little'uns, doesn't it. As anyone who saw the recent Equinox film about this particular breed of killer bees will know, this is loosely based on real-life happenings (S) (4083782). *

10.40 Match of the Day. Aston Villa v Newcastle United is the main event (S) (8773985). * 11.45 The Frank Skinner Show (R) (S) (206256). * 12.15 Top of the Pops. With Erasure, Blur, Kavariah and

Terrorvision (S) (77725). 12.45 The Experts (Dave Thomas 1988 US).
Before John Travolta recreated himself as a cult item, he starred in this feeble comedy about two hip New Yorkers who become part of a KGB plot to teach Russian spies how to act American. Within two years, MacDonalds would be doing it for them (357812).

2.15 Weather (1901541). To 2.20am.

BBC2

7.05 Desperate Search (Joseph Lewis 1952 US). Howard Keel and Jane Greer lead the search for their two children, missing after their plane crashes in British Columbia (3006411).

8.10 First Good Old Boy (Torn G Robertson 1988 US). Rites of passage for a 12-year-old boy in wartine Mississippi (28014275).

10.00 Chanakya (S) (1713625).

10.35 Network East. The winner of the supermodel

competition is announced and singer Aklaq Ahmed talks about his career (S) (6535782).

11.20 Q Asia (S) (5613850).

11.55 The Natural World: Firebird. Flamingo life in the

African Rift Valley (R) (S) (7183879). *
12.45 Film 97 with Barry Norman (S) (774072). *
1.15 Accel Artists and Models (Frank Tashlin 1955 US).

New York cartoonist Dean Martin uses the wacky dreams of his pal (Jerry Lewis) as the inspiration for his strip. Shirley MacLaine co-stars (97722324).

3.00 Head How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (David Swift 1967 US). Musical satire with Robert Morse recreating his Broadway role as the window cleaner using his wiles to climb the corporate ladder. The Frank Loesser score is

choreographed by Bob Fosse (53898). **5.00 TOTP Ž** (Š) (9459362). 5.45 Darts: World Championship. The semi-finals (1305237).

7.10 News and Sport (Followed by Weather) (939459).
7.25 What the Papers Say, With Kevin McGuire of the Daily Mirror (S) (115891).

7.35 Tx: Children of the Revolution. See Preview, above (R) (S) (886140). *
9.00 Till Death Us Do Part. An epsiode from 1972 finds Alf Garnett visiting the hospital to meet his new

grandson (7430). 9.30 The Hawk (David Hayman 1992 UK). Dourly atmospheric thriller staming Helen Mirren as a housewife who begins to suspect that husband George Costigan is a serial killer. Mirren is good – perhaps too good. She seems too intelligent to find herself in this set up in the first place (R) (S)

(5679898). * 10.55 Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould. See The big picture, above (1993) (S) (17974411).

12.30 Site Death of a Schoolboy (Peter Patzak 1990 Austria). The story of the 17-year-old anarchist Gavrilo Princip, who fatefully assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 (S)

1.55 Weather (2580102). To 2.00am. REGIONS, Wales: 6.05pm Darts, 7.25 The Noble Border, 7.53, A View from the Border, 7.55 Tending the Border. 8.28 A View from the Border, 8.30 No Borders, 9.13 A View from the Border. 9.15 Border Country. 9.48 A View from the Border, 9.50 Film: On The Black Hill, 11,40 Film: Screen Two: The Hawk. 1.05 32 Short

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alerd 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.55 Masked Rider (1851701). 9.25 Scratchy and Co. Guests are Scottish rockers Texas

and actor Anthony Engelman, better known as Stonefish from Neighbours (S) (68998169). 11.30 The Chart Show (S) (10430).

12.30 The Making of James and the Giant Peach (R)

1.00 News and Weather (96471817). * 1.05 London Weekend Today (96470188). * 1.10 Stuntmasters (R) (80362817).

1.30 FIEL Ambush at Tomahawk Gap (Fred Sears 1953 US). Four ex-convicts are attacked by Indians while trying to retrieve their loot from an earlier robbery. Thoroughly undistinguished western with John Hodiak, John Derek and David Brian (9725492).

2.50 SeaQuest DSV (S) (19847053).

4.45 News and Results (1619985). *
5.05 London Weekend Tonight (1514817). *
5.20 Clueless. Cher becomes infatuated with the latest member of her acting class (1967782). *

5.50 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (S) (535701). *
6.15 Gladiators Celebrity Challenge. A special New Year charity edition (S) (357614). *
7.15 Blind Date (Followed by National Lottery Result)

8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (216633). * 8.45 News and National Lottery Update (Followed by Weather) (936817). *
8.59 LWT Weather (417633).

9.00 Happy Birthday Shirley. Queen of kitsch, the extraordinary Shirley Bassey, celebrates her 60th birthday in the company of Ray Charles, Sear

Connery, Bruce Forsyth, Joe Pasquale and the Muppets. You're kind of party? (S) (8898). *

10.00 The Midnight Sting (Michael Ritchie 1992 US). Enjoyable boxing scam movie – a sort of cross between Rocky and The Sting - with super-cool ex-con James Woods stumbling across an illegal boxing cartel and attempting to fleece it with the help of ageing fist merchant Louis Gossett Jnr. A nicely despicable Bruce Dem is the object of the scam (218633). * 11.50 In Bed with Medinner. The TV series with the

tortuously punning title returns with comedian Bob Mills surfing the airwaves for general wackiness (748256). 12.20 The Final Heist (George Mihalka 1991 US).

Fading TV star Jan-Michael Vincent (Winds of War, Airwolf) plays an art thief forced to come out of retirement and steal a priceless Van Gogh after his daughter is kidnapped (477198), * 2.05 American Gladiators (S) (2849522). 2.55 Tropical Heat (S) (7821947). 3.55 Club Nation (R) (6122270).

4.50 Cool Vibes (R) (38394812).

5.05 Coach (S) (4576102). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.10 Early Morning: Sesame Street (R) (3372481). 7.05 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (8126324). 7.30 Dennis (R) (7764966).

7.45 First Edition (7752121).

8.00 Trans World Sport (80966). 9.00 The Moming Line (S) (57053). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (91188). 11.00 Blitz! (S) (71324).

12.00 Voiceover Queen (7400256).
12.15 IIISI Red Mountain (William Dieterle 1951 US).
Alan Ladd plays a Confederate officer who joins notorious rebel William Clark Quantrill (John Ireland), but turns against him after witnessing his brutal methods (757131). 1.50 Racing from Wolverhampton and Leopardstown.

The 2.05 Pierse Leopardstown Chase, 2.20 Total All Weather Limited Stakes, 2.35 The Ladbroke Hurdle, 3.20 Weatherbys Group Maiden, 3.50 Coral Handicap Stakes. Plus, recorded action from the 1.20 and 1.50 races at Wolverhampton (S) (21453053).4.05 Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen. Brie,

honey and saffron tart is on the menu (2669169). 4.35 Bus Stop. Repeat behind-the-scenes glimpse of London's Victoria Coach Station (R) (8876481). 5.05 Brookside Omnībus (S) (4860256). * 6.30 Right to Reply (Followed by News Summary and

Weather) (\$1 (863053). 7.05 Life After Soap. Former soap stars discuss the problems of leaving (R) (927614). 7.20 The Desert Rats (Robert Wise 1953 UK).

James Mason reprieves his moving portrayal of Rommel from The Desert Fox as Richard Burton commands a brigade of Aussies at the Battle of Tobruk (32149237). 9.00 The Fragile Heart. 2/3. Continuing this swift repeat

of Paula Milne's heart surgeon drama. Nigel Hawthorne stars (R) (S) (4097985). * 10.20 The Falcon and the Snowman (John

Schlesinger 1985 US). Rather portentous spy movie based on the real-life 1970s case of a Californian college drop-out (here played by Timothy Hutton) and his druggie friend (Sean Penn) who sold American spy satellite secrets to the Russians. It's a fascinating story whose rich potential is all but discarded by Schlesinger. David Suchet and Lori Singer co-star (S) (40798508). 12.45 TV Pizza. Laura Kightlinger presents the first in a

new series which trawls through the world of American TV. Tonight's offerings include an interview with former Dallas star Charlene Tilton and an adult puppet show (2243218).

1.30 The Girlie Show. From last night (R) (S) (57522). 2.00 Ricki Lake (R) (S) (6194893). * 2.45 Beavis and Butt-Head (R) (S) (4714676). 3.10 Bless This House. The American sitcom of this title

(R) (S) (32842473). 3.40 The White Room. Featuring Oasis, David Bowie and PM Dawn (R) (S) (1665367) 4.40 The Beat Specials (R) (2728367). To 5.50am.

ITV/Regions

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ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (92966). 1.10 Champions of the Future (55193740). 1.40 Cartoon Time (31413633). 2.00 Annoti (557362). 3.50 Baywartch (7200072). 13.50 Film: Murder 101 (689527). 1.30am Carnal Knowledge (75218). 2.30am Sound Bites (7605744). 2.40am Film: Patty Hearst (385858). 4.30-5.30am Funity Burker (80638).

4.30-5.30am Funky Bunker (80638).
CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/TORKSHIRE
As Landon except: 12.30pm Movies, Games (92966).
1.10 Thunder in Paradise (6604879). 2.00 Cartoon (98652614). 2.05 Channel 3: Film: Father Carne Too (532053). 2.10 Yurks: Film: Father Carne Too (814169). 3.50 Baywatch (720072). 5.10 Channel 3: Full Time (5886035). Yurks: Scoreine (5886035). 11.50 Instant Replay (205988). 12.50em in Bed with Medinner (7907096). 1.20em Film: Green Bereis (85175454). 3.50em Funny Business (83585367). 4.20em Colins and Maconiels Movie Club (64088560). 4.45-5.30em Murder, She Wrote (6234102).

As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (92966).
1.10 Champions of the Future (55193740), 1.40
Movies, Games (74965614). 2.10 Film: Greyfriars Bobby (820166). 3.45 earluest DSY (105188). 5.10 Goals Extra (5886035). 4.50am Jobfinder (63299305). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (5515980).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (9:2966). 1.10 West: Sportsweek (4114695). Wales: Ainwolf (9941463). 1.45 West: Filtre National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (90097256). 2.05 Wales: Carbon Time (8658941.1). 2.15 Wales: 2.05 Wales: Carbon Time (8608941;1, 2.15 Wales: Film: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (806140), 3.25 West: Robocop (3300879), 3.55 Wales: Robocop (4532148), 4.15 West: The List (942546), 11.50 Film: Murder 101 (689527), 1.30am Camal knowledge (75218), 2.30am Sound Bites (7605744), 2.40am Films Patty Hearst (385858), 4.30-5.30am Furrky Burker (80638),

MERIDIAM As London except: 12-30 pm Movies, Games and Videos (92966). 1.10 World of Sailing Special (4114695). 1.45 Cartoon (40982898). 1.55 Airwolf (8309140). 2.55 sea@uest DSV (2418966). 3.50 Baywaitch (7200072). 11.50 Films: Murder 101 (689527). 1.30 am Carnal Knowledge (75218). 2.30 am Sound Bites (7605744). 2.40 am Films: Patly Hearst (385858). 4.30-5.30 am Furtly Burker (80638). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTOURINT AS Landon except: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (92966). 1.10 Film: Man About the House (9772/879). 2.55 Airwolf (2418966). 3.50 seaQuest DSV (7200072). 11.50 Film: Murder 101 (689527). 1.30am Carnal Knowledge (75218), 2.30am Sound Bites (7605744), 2.40am Film: Patity Hearst (385859), 4.30-5.30am Funky Bunker (80638).

As C4 except: 6.10am Sesame Street (33724811 10.00 As C4 except: 6.10am Sesame Steet (33/2481). 10.00 As C4 except: 6.10am Sesame Steet (33/2481). 10.30 New Garnesmaster (7261.4). 12.00 Moviewatch (63966). 12.30pm Film: Twist (8018817). 4.05 Ben Cassy (5784508). 6.30 Real Wedding Show (411). 7.00 News (928343). 7.15 Coffr To (2314546). 8.20 Tro Breight Iyn Ebenszer (519904). 8.50 Licyris Olsoris (164275). 9.25 Film: 1492. The Computer of Paradia (75912085). 1492: The Conquest of Paradise (75917985). 12.15am Whose Line is it Anyway? (93763). 2.00-2.45am Ricki Lake Show (6194893).

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Rampling 9.00 Rap Show 12.00 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix Radio 2

(88-90 2MH; FM) 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Satrday Show 1.00 Arthur Smith's Amusing Bits 1,30 Smith and Jones Armusing ons 1.30 Smith and John Sound Off 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barracfough 5.00 Diamonds are Forever 6.00 Bryan Farry in Concert 7.00 The Ella Fitzgerald Songbooks 7.30 Shirley Bassey in Concert 9.00 David Jacobs 10.00 The Arts Programme, See Choice. above. 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta Radio 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.55am Weather; News Headlines. 7.00 Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Release. 12.00 Private Passions. Sir Isaiah

Berlin talks to Michael Berkeles 1.00 Threads. An exploration of the material world with Hannah Andrassy. (2/6). 1.20 Vintage Years: The Philhar-

monia. Examining the partner-ship between the Philharmonia and Herbert von Karalan.
3.20 The Finishing Touch. David
Campbell is joined by planist Ronan O'Hora and five students from the Welsh College of Music and Drama to play and discuss the finer points of Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor, Op

4.05 The BBC Orchestras. BBC

in art and science.

10.00 Brecon Jazz Festival. Alyn Shipton introduces a double bill recorded at the 1996 festival. American trumpeter form inarest performs with a new seatet, and the young tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman is joined by Peter Bernstein (guitar), Peter Martin

Choice

The lines between art and fakery are blurred in tonight's Kaleidoscope Feature (7.20pm R4) on the critically acclaimed but non-existent poet Em Malley, and in an Arts Programme on the actor as imitator, I Am What I'm Not (10pm R2), featuring new Marlene Dietrich look-alike Sian Phillips (left).

Symphony Orchestra/Andrew Davis, BBC Symphony Chorus (women's voices). Holst: The

5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. 6.30 Live from the Met: La Bo-heme. Puccini's celebrated four act opera about young love and death in a Parisian garret. Cast includes Marcello Glordani, tenor (Rodolfo), Patricia Racette, soprano (Mirni), Antnony Michaels-Moore, baritone (Marcello), Paul Whelan, baritone (Schaunard), Hao Jiane Tian, bass (Colline), Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera, New York/Nello Santi, Acts 1 and 2. (7.30-8.00 The

James Naughtle Interview. With British baritone Anthony Michaels-Moore.) Act 3. (8.25-8.50 Bohemian Parls.) Act 4. 9.30 Blue Skies. Professor Steve Jones attempts to quantify risk

certo in D. 2.15 Jazz from Tomoto. 3.50 Choral Concert. 4.20 Sibelius. Symphony No 4. 6.00-7.00am Sequence.

Radio 4 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway.

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 Just a Minute. 12.55 Weather. 1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests are Michael Portiflo MP: shadow health minister Tessa Jowell MP; chairper-son of the Broadcasting

(piano), Christopher Thomas (bass) and Brian Blade (drums). 1.00 Through the Night. 1.01 Violin Concertos. Jaako Ilkaa

Kuusisto (violin), Odense SO/Janos Furst. Nielsen: Violin Concerto. Brahms: Violin Con-

924-94 5Mg FM; 198Mg LWP 6.00am News. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 7.00 Today.

10.00 Loose Ends. 11.00 My Father Said to Me.

and Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Any Answers.

2.30 Playhouse: The Venus Bar. Humorous drama by Yana Stanjo in which a spotty chocoholic becomes involved in the advertising campaign for a new chocolate bar. With Rachel Atkins and Nicholas Boulton 3.45 Hitting the Bull's-Eye. 4.00 Island on the Edge. 4.30 Science Now.

5.00 Consequences. Denys Blakeway assesses the impact of British Telecom privatisation. 5.40 Footnotes. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.50 Cafe Days. 7.20 Káleidoscope Feature. In 1943 two Australian poets decided to invent a fictional poetic genius as a response to what genius as a response what they saw as an increasingly pre-tentious artistic awant garde. So taken in was the literary world by the works of "Ern Malley", that the effects of their scam

still reverberate today. See Choice, above.
7.50 On These Days.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Wild Hops. By Sally Worboyes. With Google Index (2/4) George Innes. (2/4). 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten.

10.15 The Joke. When Hungarian-born Adam returns to his native city of Budapest after a 40 vear absence, he is forced to face the consequences of a joke he passed on as a child. With John Nettles. 11.15 The Blue Room. 11.45 Aesthete's Foot.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: The Stalled Ox. By Saki, 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5 693, 909latz HW/

6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 The Game's Up 12.05 Baker and Kelly Upfront 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Dailyn UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 Word Uni 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.05am Morning Reports

Classic FM

(100 0-10) 9882 PM 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann's Packed Lunch 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Russian Revelation 8.00 Evening Concert. Schubert: String Quartet in E flat; Mass No 2 in G; Die Schone Mullerin; Symphony No 5 in B flat. 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 The Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone Virgin Radio

11215, 1197-1250M: MW 105.8MH: FN0 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Je

remy Clark 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00

Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce World Service

(1986e 100)

1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Quote...
Unquote 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.15
Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Review 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short
Story 4.45 On the Move 5.00
Newsday 5.30-6.00am Weekend

7.00am WKRP in Cincinnati (41891). 7.30 George (28256). 8.00 Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (35430). 9.00

Star Trek: The Next Generation (76017). 10.00 Quantum Leap (17140), 11.00 Star Trek (37904), 12.00 WWF: Blast Off (31879), 1.00 WWF: Challenge (40527), 2.00 Kung Fu: The Legend Continues (95430). 3.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (66091). 4.00 Star Trek: Voyager (52898). 5.00 The Hit Mix (2546). 6.00 Kung Fu: The Legend Continues 153091). 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (634921, 8.00 Cop-pers (9695), 8.30 Cops I (1430), 9.00 Pacific Drive (41782), 9.30 Cop Files (32508), 10.00 Law and Order (95091), 11.00 The Red Shoe Dianes (53527), 11,30 The Movie Show (90985), 12,00 LAPD (42544). 12.30 The Lucy Show (95015), 1.00 Dream On (44541), 1.30 The Edge (90218), 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix Long

Satellite

Play (53763). SXY 2

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (8291091), 8.00 Metrose Place (8277411), 9.00 Pacific Drive (8297275), 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (6891695), 10.30 Tales from Crypt (6890343), 11,00 Stand and Deliver (5082891), 11,30 Stand and Deliver (5082891), 11,30 Stand and Deliver (5411527), 12,00-6,00am Hit Mix Long Play (9388015).

6.00am Oh God! Book II (1980) (263-33) 8.00 Torch Song (1993) (86782). 10.00 Dad. the Angel and Me (1995) (56788). 12.00 The Black Stallion (1979) (87643), 2.00 Guard ing Tess (1995) (86343), 4.00 Char-rie's Ghost Story (1994) (7850), 6.00 Guarding Tess (1995) (78324), 10.00 Poison by II: Lily (1995) (830879). 11.50 Virtual Desire (1995) (210411). 1.30 Double Obsession

(1993) (3835980). 2.55 My New Gun (1992) (124015), 4.30-5,55am Charlie's Ghost Story (1994) (50102).

MOVIE CHANNEL 6.00am Youth Runs Wild (1944) (7261614). 7.10 High Rise Donkey (1980) (1402121). 8.10 The Fuzzy Pini, Nightgown (1957) (82688053). 10.00 Mister Dog (1995) (47430). 10.00 Mister Dog (1995) (47430). 12.00 Maverick (1993) (70895275). 2.10 Three Ninjas Knuckle Up (1995) (199362). 4.00 The Boy on a Doi-phin (1957) (5492). 6.00 Second Chance (1995) (64121). 8.00 May-erick (1993) (7696). 10.00 The Pa-per (1994) (58072). 12.00 Above Suspicion (1994) (778218). 1.40 Body Shot (1993) (183183). 3.20 The Happy Honler (1974) (192676). The Happy Hooker (1974) (192676). 5.00-6.05am Youth Runs Wild (1944) (68676).

SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm Seven Days in May (1964) (9481986). 6.00 Silent Movie (1976) (9933879). 8.00 No Way Out (1987) (9938324), 10.00 Hard to Kill (1990) (1784904), 11.40 Spacehunter, Adventures in the Forbidden Zone (1983) (8460695). 1.15 Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kirl (1965) (5589270). 2.45 The Mouse That Roared (1959) (39986560). 4.10-5.40am Return of the Bad Men (1948) (28493560).

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (58411). 7.30 American Sports (50169). 8.30 Racing News (81275), 9.00 fee Hockey (33411), 10.00 The Rugby -Club (66430), 11.00 Hold the Back Page (53966), 12.00 Sports Saturday (30527), 2.00 Live Rugby Union (96467459). 4.15 Sports Saturday Results (9160512). 5.30 Ice Hockey (29607), 6.30 Rugby Union Update (93701), 8.30 Live Boung (938594), 11.00 Rugby Union Update (50017), 1.00 Spanish Football (26580), 3.00-5.00am Boxing (51589).

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer AM (4091324). 11.00 Sports Classics (9054633). 12.00 Sports Unlimited (1479091). 1.00 los Hockey (1455411), 2.00 Fishing (7749530), 4.00 Sports Classics (6838782), 5.00 Sports Unlimited (1410527), 6.00 Watersports (1475275), 7.00 Live Spanish Football (3155701). 9.30 Futbol Mundia (1447492). 10.00 Watersports (9644166). 11.00 Cricket (6839411). 11.30-1.00am World Cup Classics (3723782).

12.00noon Sailing (93288411). 12.30 High Five (67227072). 1.00 Molorsport (20193168). 5.00 US Golf (93209904). 7.00 ice Skating 120770188). 8.00 Live US Golf (38365121). 9.30 Sailing (67214508). 10.00 Ice Skating (20779459). 11.00 Sailing (43161121). 11.30-12.00mkinight High Five (56058237).

LIVE TV 6.00am Agony 6.30 The Fashion Show 7.00 Revelations 7.30 Fate and Fortune 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30
Agony 11.00 Psychic Pet Show
11.30 Fale and Fortune 12.00 Gail's 11.30 Fale and Fortune 12.00 Gail's Campus Capers 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Nation Live 1.15 Looking for Love 1.30 Psychic Pet Show 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Sport Live 5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Seventia Pop Show 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Psychic Pet Show 8.20 Agony 2.30 Ago 8.00 Psychic Pet Show 8.30 Agony 9.03 Fashion 9.30 Looking for Love 9.45 The Bottom Line 10.05 Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 11.03 Fate and For-tune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revelations 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30-

6.00am Night-Time Programmes

FILMS LOSE THEIR EDGE UNLESS YOU WATCH THEM ON A SAMSUNG WIDESCREEN





Venusian) would have been revealed to me. I would have come to know how evil Lor Xenu filled the world with alien Engrams some 75 million years ago, how thes

the commentators

After this week's television poll on the future of the monarchy, Jack O'Sullivan plots a career strategy for the would-be Charles III, while James Cusick considers pretenders to the Scottish throne

صكنات الاعل

Dump Camilla and find us a new Queen

ently to be given a facelift. We are told that a fiveyear strategy is being devel-oped, aimed at restoring his reputation in time for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. By then, the Palace (that talking building) hopes that the Prince's divorce from Diana and then proceeded to Diana and then proceeded to will be a fading memory, antipathy towards his mistress, Camilla Parker-Bowles, will have waned and we'll all be cheerfully waiting with the bunting for the succession of King Charles III.

The big match

World Professional Dan

ITV/Regions

MARKET STREET, SECTION

急しがわ マツ

At least that's the plan. And a few new advisers, including Tom Shebbeare, director of the Prince's Trust, have been drafted in to augment existing courtiers, who have so far failed to make Charles popular. The effort to improve the Prince's public standing now involves many people from beyond traditional royal circles, including Jonathan Porritt, the environmental campaigner, and Jonathan Dimbleby, the broadcaster.

But they have a tough job, promoting a man whom the public has come to regard, to coin a phrase Charles once used, as a monstrous carbuncle. The Prince's poor standing was demonstrated yet again this week when the audience of Carlton's TV's great debate on the monarchy said they would prefer Princess Anne to succeed to the throne.

So can the PR initiative make Charles loveable? I doubt it. For one thing, the Prince finds it impossible to listen to any advice for long. He has run through a lengthy list of private secretaries, from Edward Adeane, who moved on after Charles set aside royal etithe nation's architects, to Richard Aylard, who left recently after being blamed when Charles's confession of

adultery proved a PR failure. It is also clear that at 48, the Prince is incorrigible. His long-standing relationship with Mrs Parker-Bowles, so damaging to public opinion, is, we are told, "not negotiable". Nor does he wish to change his lifestyle. The group will instead focus on remarketing what the Prince does already, highlighting his charitable work for the Prince's Trust, his campaigns against ugly architecture and his belief in

conservation. Yet even the cleverest marketing will not save Charles. Forget the polo matches, the flying, the action man poses. They may be what matters to Prince Charles as proof that he is man enough to be king. But they are not what the rest of us consider when reckoning up the balance sheet. What we remember is that when Prince

he public image of the Prince of Wales is appar-after cracking his skull with a golf club, Prince Charles went off to the opera. Can any of us recall seeing the Prince of Wales, would-be father of the nation, ever holding or touch-

ing his or any other child? He is a weak man who let his ruin his wife's life by neither supporting her properly against the pressures of royalty nor staying faithful to her. He must bear some responsibility for the fact that she went off her



Can any of us recall the Prince holding his or any other child?

head for long periods of their marriage. In an age when deference is dead, how can he expect us to look up to him?

The answer that the Prince's new advisers are likely to give is:
"Look at all he does". But that is no answer to the public perception of what he is - a distant father and an unloving husband.

A further, more fundamental problem is that the activist image of monarchy so favoured by Charles is not what we want. We like the Queen because she presides almost transcendentally over British society. We like her for being there, rather than doing anything in particular. Most people nei-ther know nor wish to know what she thinks on any partic-

ular issue. The truth is that women are more adept than men at being modern British monarchs. because they are better at just being. Men want to be kings to do things - but they haven't woken up to the fact that this model of monarchy is dead. The history of the last few generations is that we have been prepared to tolerate inadequate men close to the throne as long as there was a woman around to do the job properly. So we have put up with the ridiculous Prince Philip because his wife is in charge. And the rather inadequate George VI got by because Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, kept the show on the road. His brother, the short-reigning Edward VIII. would have been no good because the twice-divorced

not our idea of a matriarch. As for Charles, his quirky, eccentric, occasionally misanthropic outbursts were tolerated because at least his wife, Diana, seemed in touch with real life and would be Queen. In short, we were not waiting for a new king. We were waiting for another matriarch to replace the present Queen.

American, Mrs Simpson, was

That possibility has been destroyed. Instead, we are being offered an ageing, crusty twit, who helped to destroy the matriarch-to-be. Is it any wonder that we don't have much time for him? And who is he offering as a replacement matriarch? The very woman whose activities destroyed the

hopes of the favoured Diana. Charles must realise that the task of the modern king is not to govern well, not to perform wonderful tasks, but to marry the right woman, who can then perform the symbolic tasks of which he seems incapable. If he fails to do so, he should not be surprised that people want Princess Anne as Queen.

It is easy to see why she is attractive. She came from the same dysfunctional family, but herself, done sterling, unsung work for Save the Children and been an Olympic champion. She has managed to divorce her first husband without acrimony, then marry a man she loves and still keep her children out of the public eve. Not bad for a royal who is not

overly intelligent. Anne cannot succeed to the throne, but there is another way the nation can get a matriarch into Buckingham Palace. Charles could be pressured into waiving his succession in favour of Prince William. Thus Diana would be restored to the central role of Queen Mother.

All of this points to the advice that Prince Charles's counsellors should be giving him. "Dump Camilla, find a new wife everyone likes and give us the matriarch we need." But they will not be offering that advice. And Charles has made clear, for very understandable personal reasons, that he would not, in any case, listen to them.



King Franz of Scotland?

Sounds a bit odd, but to some Scots, the present Duke of Bavaria, senior member of the German Wittelsbach family, is the man who should be at the centre of the monarchy debate, not Charles Windsor.

While the Scottish National Party leader. Alex Salmond, appears overjoyed that Tuesday's ITV gladiatorial circus left monarchists in Scotland rushing for bandages as the debate opened up old wounds, he is still pathetically clinging to a contradiction; and privately, he knows it.

In this week's admittedly unrepresentative telephone poll, 56 per cent of Scots voted against a monarchy. Thus the SNP were gifted a political window to throw out their weak and confusing policy which says that a House of Windsor monarch could remain as head of state in an independent Scotland, "Television," Mr Salmond said, "is acting as a substitute because the main parties are running away from the issue." But he is guilty himself of run-

ning away from the main issue.
Following the debate, Mr
Salmond claimed that the British royal family had been discredited, because they are viewed by Scots as being an integral part of the English establishment. So why does his party cling to the idea that an independent Scotland should retain the Windsors (or more accurately, the Saxe-Coburgs) as head of state? Is the SNP frightened to ditch the system that ditched the Stuarts to replace them by the Hanoverians and subsequently the descendants of

the German duchy of Saxe-Gotha and Gotha? Are the Scots trapped in history? Or are they frightened of the future? Try as you may, it

onnie Prince Franz. days of the SNP's annual con-succeeded by his elder son, ference without witnessing Franz, a 63-year-old internatears, genuine tears (shed, usually through a haze of malt whisky) for the failed Jacobite cause. The romance of their songs is usually Bonnie Prince Charlie. But the real problem

was James II. In 1685, James, a Catholic convert, succeeded to the throne of Scotland, England and Ireland and embarked on a series of pro-Catholic policies. Anxiety for the future of Protestantism intensified. By 1688, with a Catholic heir already born, seven prominent subjects invited William of tional trade diplomat. If Alex Salmond is serious

about wanting a modern, slimmed-down "Europeanstyle" monarch restricted to a minor role in an independent Scotland, one without links to the English establishment, Prince Franz would initially seem an ideal king candidate.

Mr Salmond, although an economist, claims he knows as much of Scotland's history as anyone. He should therefore know that the Scots from the 14th century have never been too concerned with their mon-Orange to lead an army to archs having God-given rights.

would. But if you have thrown out the Hanoverian impostors. and you want the real royal McCoy (or at least the real Stuart). Franz the First it will have to be.

After James II's failed

attempt, beginning in 1689, to regain the crown, he died in 1701. His son was James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender. And his son, Charles Edward Stuart, became the Young Pretender, fondly known as Bonnie Prince Charlie. After his failures to regain the thrones (the 1745 clan rising), the Young Pretender went

Henry (called Henry IX by

In his will, the cardinal

passed the Stuart claim to the

former king of Sardinia, Charles Emmanuel IV. The

cardinal, died in 1807.

the end of World War One, the title is still used by the family. According to Count Christophe Preysing, president of the Administration of the Dukes of Bavaria, "the family

does not like talking about this matter of the Jacobite title. The prince does not want to mix himself into British royal problems." Here is clear evidence for the nationalists that this is a sensible man. But if Bonnie Prince Franz

member of the Italian House of

Savoy, the Stuart claim passed

to his brother Victor, through

his daughter Mary Beatrice, to

the House of Habsburg-Lorraine. Mary Beatrice's

granddaughter married a prince of the Wittelsbach family, then

rulers of Bavaria. Although all

royal power ended when

Bavaria became a republic at

is frightened off, deciding (sen-sibly) to remain in Munich, there is still no royal crisis. If the majority of Scots want to be He died childless in Rome in "citizens, not subjects", the 1788, and his younger brother Republic of Scotland it will have to be. And the race for the faithful Jacobites) succeeded him, Henry, a Roman Catholic presidency will be on.

Favourites? Surely, only one man stands out. He has already been a king, and a leader of men - at least on film. He has shown the true nature of his Scottish genes by spending plenty of time abroad playing golf. I give you President Sean

A German Catholic on the throne? Surely the Orange Order would object

England. James II fled to Ire- The 1320 Declaration of land, and the reign of his sister Mary and her husband, William, began,

To ensure that future sovereigns were members of the Church of England, the Act of Settlement was passed. It stipulated that if William and his sister-in-law Anne died without heirs, the throne would pass to Mary's distant cousin Sophia, electress of Hanover, or to her Protestant descendants. In 1714, on the death of Queen Anne, George I of Hanover succeeded to the thrones of Great Britain.

The ruling dynasty of Scot-land dating back to 1371, the Stewarts (Stuart is the French form of the name), had gone. Or has it?

Last July, His Royal Highness Duke Albrecht of Bavaria died at Schloss Berg near Munich. He was 91. He was the lineal representative of the is difficult to go through the few Royal House of Stuart and was

Arbroath, a letter sent to Pope John XXII to argue for Scotland's outright independence and for recognition of Robert Bruce as their Stuart king, crucially stated that the Scottish people had agreed to make Bruce king. But they reserved the right to throw him out "and make some other man who was well able to defend us

Contracts should appeal to politicians, especially with the millennium approaching. So why not a contract for Prince Franz? He does a good job, he stays. He does a bad job, and on the power of the Arbroath declaration, the Scots simply get someone else.

A German Roman Catholic on the throne of Scotland? Surely the resident Protestant population of Scotland, especially the more militant members of the Orange Order, would object. I'm sure they

right derives from Charles's great-great-grandfather, who vas married to Henrietta Connery. Arise, King Scan I. Stuart, James II's sister.

Personal

Equity Plans

Sunday 12th January 1997

The Independent on Sunday's **Business section** will be publishing a comprehensive survey on Personal Equity Plans.

The survey will identify what they are and who should consider them.

It will also define the different types of PEPs available and include a table of the leading providers.

NDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

ne day - when I was a teenager - I decided to have my personality tested. For weeks I had passed the odd-looking bookshop near Goodge Street Tube station, on London's Tottenham Court Road, which advertised on the spot analysis. Perhaps it was the luridly illustrated sciencefiction paperbacks in the window, or the insistent manner with which the man in the doorway invited youngsters (always youngsters) to come inside, that put me off. And then, in a fit of self-confidence, I went inside and filled in the interminable questionnaire about holes in my life (none, unfortunately), spiritual emptiness (also absent) and my longing for completeness

(incomplete). Someone in the shop took a quick shufti, looked me up and down and bade me farewell. And thus ended my only brush with the Church of Scientology.

Had I been slightly more promising material, I would have been slowly drawn into sessions of self-exploration. Gradually truths (as witnessed by Scientology's founder, L Ron Hubbard, sci-fi author and honorary Venusian) would have been revealed to me. I would have come to know how evil Lord Xenu filled the world with alien Engrams some 75 million years ago, how these

can be measured by a machine passing 1.5 volts through your body, how they can then be purged through a mixture of psychobabble and mumbo-jumbo called dianetics. And how giving vast amounts of your time and money to the Church of Scientology can assist the process of becoming a Thetan one of the elect. I might have been one of the several millions worldwide who subscribe to this nonsense.

According to a group of Hollywood writers and actors including heroes of mine such as Gore Vidal and Dustin Hoffman - I have had a fortunate escape: For had I become an aspirant Thetan, I might then have faced a similar persecution at the hands of the modern German government to that which was experienced by many of my (never-met) Jewish relatives in the Nazi Germany of the

Thirties. This alarming charge was to be found in a full-page advertisement, "an open letter to Helmut Kohl", the German Chancellor, in Thursday's edition of the International Herald Tribune. "In the 1930s it was the Jews," says the ad. "Today it is the Scientologists." Then, "the world stood by in silence" as "Jews were marginalised, then excluded, then vilified and ultimately subjected to unspeakable horrors". Not any more.



Scientologists who accuse Germany of Nazi-style persecution beggar belief

aaronovitch

"Extremists of your party should not be permitted to believe that the rest of the world will look the other way. Not this time." Joining Hoffman and Vidal in signing this remarkable accusation are Costa-Gavras, CNN's Larry King, Mario Puzo, Oliver Stone and a score or more of Hollywood's Here are some questions that I would like to ask the

co-signatories. Have Scientologists' assets been seized? Have their churches been systematically burned? Is there a law forbidding intermarriage between Scientologists and Germans? Do gangs of semi-licensed thugs roam the streets beating up Scientologists? Are there embryonic concentration camps where leading Scientologists are incarcerated without proper process? Do ordinary people spit at Scientologists in cafés and restaurants? Are the cinemas filled with films depicting Scientologists as vermin? Does the Number One bit on the Kurfürsten-

damm this year contain the words "when Scientologist blood spurts from the knife, then I feel good"?

No. What has happened is that the democratic Germans have taken Scientology seriously (just as they take everything, from bowel movements to dental hygiene, seriously), are wondering

about how to dissuade the impressionable from joining the cult, and getting it a bit wrong. The youth wing of the CDU has tried to boycott a Tom Cruise film (because of his membership of the cult). but exercises about the same influence on the young as a

line-dancer at a rave. The European Court will sort the whole thing out. But Hollywood, with its rich schvuntzes, talented schmucks, political schmos, public schlemiels and castingcouch schnorrers, with its fêted campaign endorsers, with its Cinemascope understanding of the great

issues in world history (Liam Neeson Scots nationalists, Kevin Costner cowboys, Dan Day Lewis Irishmen), with its tenuous grasp on any notion of morality, Hollywood knows better. It looks at one of the two or three most democratic states in the modern world and cries "Nazi!" Actually, there is a group

whose treatment by democratic societies holds a much better parallel for the Church of Scientology. This group is forbidden from practising its rituals openly, its assets are seized and burned, it is not allowed to trade, it is forced into a shadowy, criminal existence, it is not tolerated in schools. it may not be propagated. I refer, of course, to drugtaking. Drugees - the new Jews. How about it, Gore?

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Vero Wynne-Edwards

Vero Wynne-Edwards was one matic perturbations. More imof the 20th century's greatest scientific naturalists and original thinkers on population regulation in animals.

The book for which he will be remembered is. Animal Dispersion in Relation to Social Behaviour (1962), which was probably the most controversial to appear in biology in the Sixties and Seventies. At 650 pages it was the scholarly result of a lifelong consideration of the processes limiting animal numbers.

In it he proposed that animals collaborate socially for the benefit of the group, that they compete for territory and sta-tus rather than for food, with the losers patiently accepting their lot, and that animals are not, as Darwin supposed, always striving to increase their numbers but are instead programmed to regulate them. The mechanisms that prevent animals overexploiting their resources include social displays, territorial behaviour and communal roosting which evolved by group

selection.
In Wynne-Edwards's view group selection operates by differential survival of populations. Those populations which showed self-restraint in reproduction and exploitation of resources survived longer than more profligate groups, so that self-regulation of population size developed during the course of evolution. This ran counter to the conventional Darwinian view of natural selection which operates by dif-ferential survival of individuals.

These ideas were robustly rejected by adherents of the still widely accepted orthodoxy that natural populations are limited by shortage of food, by predators, parasites and disease or di-

portantly, group selection was considered to be an implausible evolutionary process; conventional selection at the individual level would always override any self-restraint by members of a population. Nevertheless, the principal

contribution of Animal Dispersion was to focus attention on the mechanisms of social evolution, and ideas that have been developed over the past two decades in opposition to Wynne-Edwards's hypothesis remain prominent in much of the current thinking in sociobiology and behavioural ecolo-gy. His book was widely read by biologists of all disciplines and a précis of it, published in the Scientific American in 1974, sold 350,000 copies, His contribution to science was recognised in 1970 by election to the Royal Society. Wynne-Edwards attempted

to answer his critics in his second major work, Evolution through Group Selection, published in 1986. He reviewed new evidence which supported his ideas and considered that he had overcome many of the objections to this thesis. The book was sympathetically reviewed at length in Nature and Science although Nature's reviewer concluded, from Wynne-Edwards's failure to confront the tenets of the newly emerging discipline of behavioural ecology, that it was a work of advocacy. And this was the main problem from a hypothesis, group se-lection had for Wynne-Edwards become an article of faith.

One colleague, dismissing these ideas to a class in Aberdeen, was chastened when at the end of the lecture, deliv-

office occupied in retirement by Wynne - as he was known to his academic friends - the door opened and Wynne invited him to listen to a long and very courteous discourse on the error of his ways.

Wynne-Edwards continued to take every opportunity to convince sceptics that group selection works, despite the unfortunate reluctance of some editors to give him journal space. Scientific American commissioned a second article, then declined to publish it, but Wynne-Edwards continued writing, and his last paper on group selection appeared in the Journal of Theoretical Biology in 1993, when he was 87.

Vero Wynne-Edwards's boyhood was spent in the Yorkshire Dales where he was fascinated not only by the local fauna and flora but also by astronomy. He was a meticulous observer of animals and plants who recorded his daily observations in countless notebooks. After Rugby School, he read Zoology at New College, Oxford, in 1924-27, where he acquired a detailed knowledge of the animal kingdom from E.S. Goodrich and was greatly influenced by Julian Huxley and Charles Elton. He gained first class honours and his first appointment was as a "student probationer" at the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, where he studied fish and crustacea but also published his "extra-curricular" observations on the movement and dispersion of wintering flocks of starlings.

These observations were made during visits from Ply-mouth to his fiancée Jeannie Morris, one of his Oxford classmates, who lived in Exeter. He would rise early to catch the first ered in a room adjacent to an bus or train and station himself



Wynne-Edwards: controversial view of natural selection

sistant Professor at McGill Uni-

versity, Montreal. On the voy-

age across the Atlantic, he

recorded the locations of

at a vantage-point before sunrise to watch the first waves of starlings dispersing from roosts. By backtracking he was able to locate all the roosts in Devon. This early enthusiasm for population studies of birds was to last throughout his life.

He was then briefly on the staff of the Zoology Depart-ment at Bristol University where, in 1929, he married Jeannie, who was to become his lifelong companion and support. He soon moved to be an As-

Walker Prize. In Canada, Wynne-Edwards developed his interests in mon-

resulted in the award of the

tane flora and his explanation of the postglacial distribution of plants in North America earned him fellowship of the Royal So-ciety of Canada and a second Walker Prize.

During the Second World War, he enlisted for training in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve but retained his post at McGill. He taught electronics to radar mechanics in the Roy-al Canadian Air Force and was also sent by the Fisheries Re-search Board of Canada to re-port on the fisheries resources of the Mackenzie and Yukon rivers and to establish the potential for settlement of men discharged from the armed forces after the war. This was a great adventure and rekindled his interest in fish populations. Although they shared the

responsibilities of head of department, McGill was unable to decide between Wynne-Ed-wards and N.J. Berrill for the Strathcona Chair of Zoology, and Wynne-Edwards decided to break the deadlock by returning to England. His children were quick to complain that this would deprive them of skiing opportunities and so he was attracted to vacancies further

Natural History in 1935 and tre for postgraduate training and research in ecology, and was instrumental in rehousing (and renaming) his Department of Natural History in a new building which was opened in 1970 and which remains one of of Zoology in the UK.
Wynne-Edwards also served as
Vice-Principal of Aberdeen
University from 1972 to 1974.

A major reshuffle of government-sponsored science took place in 1964-65. A new Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) was formed, incorporating the Nature Con-servancy (NC) and the Advisory Committée on Fisheries Research. After serving on the councils of the NC and NERC, Wynne-Edwards took over as NERC Chairman 1968-71. His term of office coincided with a golden age of expansion and prosperity and most of the projects the NERC Council set in motion came to fruition.

and Wynne-Edwards was unable to reconcile the opposing factions. This led in 1973 to further reorganisation, with the establishment of the Nature Conservancy Council as a quango. The research division of the former Nature Conservancy was retained within the NERC as the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. There was much ill-

cross-country skier and hill walker. At 62, he held the record for the six tops of the Cairngorms, which he covered in 9 hours 34 minutes, a distance of 28 miles with 9,000 feet of climbing. At 76, a few weeks afhalf a dozen departments ter major abdominal surgery, he was seen on his skis in Glen Tanar, and at 80 he skied down Morven with his daughter.

In the days before university research and teaching required assessment, in order to produce league tables of quality, Vero Wynne-Edwards was the epitome of scholarship and crudition. His authority, delivered with a firm yet gentle touch, commanded respect and inspired affection. As a scientist he lacked personal experience of hypothesis-testing research, but came to appreciate its importance in shedding light on group selection. Although his ideas did not gain wide acceptance, he was widely admired both as natural historian and biological However, the NC and the thinker.

NERC did not integrate well He is survived by his wife. with whom he spent his last months in a retirement home looking out over the Dee Valley with his binoculars at the ready.

Vero Copner Wynne-Edwards, natural scientist: born 4 July recorded the locations of seabirds and, as a result of this and several further transatlantic journeys by ship, he concluded that seabirds in the north Atlantic were not randomly distributed but occurred in three zones—coastal, offshore (to the edge of the continental shelf) and pelagic (deep-water). These observations were published by the Boston Society of 1906; Assistant Lecturer in Zo-

Sir Peter Tennant

Peter Tennant was a linguist of genius as well as an efficient, unobtrusive organiser of secret war and a successful businessman.

He went from Marlborough to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was senior modern language scholar and took a First in that subject two years later. In 1933 he was elected to a fellowship at Queens', and to a university teaching post. He spoke most European languages well, specialising in the Scandinavian tongues; his ear was so keen and his Swedish so perfect that he could not only pass in Stockholm for a native, but could imitate several re- of him - tried to frame him as gional accents as well. His first an accomplice. He helped in the winter of 1940-41. wife, whom he married in 1934. George Binney organise two was Swedish; this helped.

So able was he that he was earmarked for secret service work if a major war broke out. Gordon Welchman the cryptographer had known him at school. and took him to codebreaking classes in the summer of 1939. When war against Hitler's Germany began that September, the Foreign Office packed him off at a few days' notice to be press attaché at the British legation in Stockholm instead. He spent most of the war there, visiting England from time to time by light bomber: press attaché made admirable cover.

Charles Hambro recruited Photograph: UPPA

him into the Special Operations Executive in summer 1940; they were among its earliest members. On top of his routine duties, nursing foreign and local correspondents - in the teeth of the evidence, in 1940-42 in the belief that Great Britain was certainly going to win the war, Tennant had several less orthodox tasks.

He was not involved in the unhappy Rickman Affair, when a would-be British saboteur was arrested and imprisoned in



important blockade-running operations, smuggling special steels vital for the British arms industry out of Sweden; he assisted SOE's Danish and Norwegian sections; he helped to distribute itching powder round visiting Germans' clothing and contraceptives; he helped dis-tribute forged leaflets into Ger-many, and helped Sefton Delmer with material for his black broadcasts to the German armed forces. He had a spy inside the German legation, for whom he secured British nationality and a new life after the

He was constantly engaged in difficulties with the Swedish security authorities; and sometimes with his own Minister, (Sir) Victor Mallet, a godson of Queen Victoria's who "lost his temper with many of us but forgave and forgot very quickly". The phrase is from Tennant's illuminating book Touchlines of War (1992), published in wedish three years earlier as Vid sidan av kriget.

war; he narrowly missed a

chance to buy the Italian fleet,

In the spring of 1945 the Foreign Office moved Tennant to Paris, where he spent five years with the title of Information Counsellor. This was, again, a propaganda task, but without the clandestine undertones of

his work in Stockholm. He left it in 1950 for a two-year spell as deputy British commandant in Berlin; he then moved into business. For 11 years he was overseas director of the Federation of British Industries, of which be was deputy director in 1963-65. For six years he was director-general of the British National Export Council, and thereafter a director of Barclays Bank.

His intellect remained lively: he was an amateur student of Ibsen, on whom he wrote a book (Ibsen's Dramatic Technique. 1947) and an amateur painter, as well as a yachtsman; he also belonged - among other bodies - to the Council for Industrial Design, the academic council of Wilton Park, and the Gabbi Thring educational trust.

M. R. D. Foot

intelligence officer, linguist and businessman: born 29 November 1910; OBE 1945; Overseas Director, FBI 1952-63, Deputy Director-General 1963-65, Special Adviser, CBI 1964-65; CMG 1958; Director-General, British National Export Council 1965-71; Ki 1972; married 1934 Hellis Fellennius (one son, two daughters; marriage dissolved 1952). 1953 Galina Bosley (died 1995): died Haslemere, Surrey 22 December 1996.

Some of the most imaginative and productive linguists and anthropologists in postcolonial Africa had previously been members of the British Colonial Service. Many managed this by becoming trans-atlantic scholars, bringing their field experience and bush skills to American university cam-puses. James Lewton-Brain was one of these, and he made the transition with relative ease, for

he had always been sympa-thetic, humane and fairminded; an early champion of women's rights in Africa (and elsewhere), and a subtle and pers, and in several books. Jim Brain had served in Tanganyika and Uganda for 12 years, beginning in 1951, and it

Peter Frank Dalrymple Tennant,

of the structure and sound of Bantu languages that he was able to give me the foundations for fluency in Chichewa, a language which up to then had never been

Professor James Lewton-Brain

taught in the United States. His lessons stayed with me. Indeed, just before Christmas last year I was travelling down the Shire River to the Zambezi, from Malawi into Mozambique - Chichewa seems to be the lingua franca of the entire Zambezi Valley - and many times silently thanked Jim Brain for his language-teaching methods and his good advice: "Remember, the 'm' in mbalame has the eloquent speaker of Swahili. He same force as the 'm' in Faswrote widely on both these cism." Jim was the most gensubjects in many articles, in erous of men, but he also showed me that the gift of a language is the gift of a world: he helped me travel and gave me access to a whole culture - and not just me, but all his many

thousands of students. He entered the world of scholarship obliquely, via soldiering and the Colonial Service. As a 16-year-old boy in Essex (he was born in Chigwell in 1923) he worked as a farm labourer, and at the age of 19 joined the British army. He spent the rest of the Second World War as a scout car driver in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany; he received a commission after the

war, and was sent with the Roy-



al Tank Regiment to Palestine and Hong Kong. His work as an Agricultural Field Officer and Community Development Otficer followed, and he served with distinction in Tanganyika and Uganda. When independence was

granted to the British territories of East Africa, Jim Brain became a research fellow in some of the remoter parts of Tanzania, and he decided to work for his doctorate in anthropology. He earned a PhD without ever having gained a BA: he was accepted by the Senate of London University for graduate study on the basis of his career achievements, particularly in the field of African languages.

He wrote widely on the peo-

ples of East Africa, on language and patterns of change, and the position of women; he made important contributions to our understanding of lefthandedness and African witchcraft, which he called "a hardy perennial". Among his books are The Basic Structure of Swahili (1963) and The Last Taboo: sex and the fear of death (1979).

He was spirited, passionate, humorous, and a powerful intellect; he was also a great teacher. He was physically strong. and so his heart attack in December came as a shock. He was married three times: to Marian Peat (the mother of his two sons, Charles, a goldsmith, and Peter, Principal Dancer at the Ballets de Monte Carlo); to Mary Gordon, the author, and to Karen Robertson, professor of English at Vassar College, who survives him.

Paul Theroux

James Lewton-Brain, anthropologist: born Chigwell, Essex 12 September 1923: Professor, Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, New Paltz 1967-87 (Emeritus): married 1950 Marian Peat (two sons; marriage dissolved 1973), 1974 Mary Gordon (marriage dissolved 1978), 1980 Karen Robertson; died Poughkeepsie, New York 2 December 1996.

A. H. Chaplin

Hugh Chaplin's work in organising the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles in Paris in 1961 is only his bestknown contribution to international librarianship over a period of 20 years, writes Dorothy Anderson [further to the obituary by Philip Harris, 4 January).

Forty years ago cataloguing codes in use world-wide differed not only in practice but also in principles. It was Chaplin's achievement that, having identified those differences, he was ment of basic principles which was acceptable internationally.

The 1961 Paris Conference was a watershed in international librarianship, and its Statement of Principles has served since as the basis for subsequent cataloguing codes.

Chaplin's work for this conference began in 1954 when a small working group of the

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) compared rules in various cataloguing codes. An international meeting in 1959, for which Chaplin was the Executive Secretary, looked to the future and agreed the scope for the 1961 conference. Again Chaplin was Executive Secretary: and the success of the conference was not only because of its well-defined objectives but also because it had been carefully prepared.

was my good fortune to meet

him at the end of this period.

at Syracuse University in New

York, in 1963, when he was

finishing work on his PhD

dissertation and I was on a

crash course, learning Chichewa

(also known as Chinyanja), a

language-skill necessary to my

hush-posting as a teacher in

The distinguished Africanist

Lucy Mair had guided Jim

Brain, and Brain guided me. So profound was his understanding

Central Africa.

A smaller International Meet-

establishment of an international cataloguing secretariat to develop further work in bibliographic standards, co-ordinate work under way, publish results and produce a journal. This

as Executive Secretary. The first issues of the journal, International Cotaloguing, appeared in 1972.

After three years the Cataloguing Secretariat merged into ing of Cataloguing Experts in Copenhagen in 1969 looked at progress since 1961; it urged the Chaplin as Chairman of its Chaplin as Chaplin as Chairman of its Chaplin as Chairman of its Chaplin as Chaplin a

Steering Committee and myself 1974. Chaplin saw this as an appropriate moment to retire. Hugh Chaplin's willingness to listen and accept other points of view was his special contribution and his strength, and, perhaps because of this, his reputation The state of the s

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

ACLAND: To Piers and Lucinda on 23 December 1996, a daughter Alice Beatrice, a sister for Harriet. DEATHS CLEVERLY: William Frederick, on 7 January 1997, aged 87. Ex RAF, schoolmaster, artist and countrymon.

Much-loved husband of Doreen Bet-

sy and father to Roger, Jane, Philip, Peter and Susan, Funeral at St Peter in Chains, Poulshot, Wilts, 1.45pm, 17

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES RANDALL: Courtney and Shirley, Con-

granulations on your Ruby Wedding on 12.1.97. All our love. Stuart and Debbie, Bret and Linda, and grand-

MEMORIAL SERVICES HILL: Professor Dame Elizabeth. A memorial service will be held at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge on Sunday 26 January at 12.30pm.

For Gazette, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

Changing of the Guard TODAY The Household Coulty Mounted Regiment in units the Omean Chie Guard at Borre Guards Harm No. 7: Compare Coldution Guard at Borre Guards Harm No. 7: Compare Coldution Guards and Enter H. Nillon, burn Joseph Guards & Burchinghous Palice H. Nillon, burn Joseph Guards & Burchinghous Palice H. Nillon, burn Joseph Guards May May and Regiment in signs, the Forthcoming marriages Mr C. H. Asby and Miss L. J. Hodgson

The engagement is announced be-tween Louise, younger daughter of Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Ceri Asby, elder son of Joan and Robin Asby, of Narberth, Pembrokeshire.

Birthdays TODAY: Mr Graham Allen MP, 44; The Right Rev John Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, 69; Mr John Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic surgeon. 80; Sir Alan Bowness, former Di-rector of the Tate Gallery, 69; Miss Kathleen Byron, actress, 74; Miss Anna Calder-Marshall, actress. 50; Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder, 54: Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer. 54; Mr Jean Chrétien OC, Prime Minister of Canada, 63: Mr Jason Connery, actor, 34; Mr Ben Crenshaw, golfer, 45; Mr Neville Duke, test pilot, 75; Miss Ann Firbank, actress, 63; Mr Barry Flanagan, sculptor. 56; Mr Andrew A. Gray, former chairman, Wellcome Foundation, 85; Mr McNyn Hayes, actor, 62; Mr Mick MacManus, wrestler, 70; Mr Brian Moore, England rugby player. 35; Sir Alastair Motton, UK chairman, Eurotunnel. 59; Sir Anthony Nutting, former MP and government minister, 77; Mr Bryan Robson, former England tootball captain, 40; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, executive chairman. Motor Sports As-sociation, 69: Mr Arthur Scargill,

president of the National Union of

Mineworkers, 59: Mr John Sessions actor, 44; Air Commodore Joy Tam-blin, former Director, WRAF. 71; Mr Rod Taylor, actor, 68; Mr Ronald

TOMORROW: Mr Anthony An-

drews, actor, 49; Miss Hazel Aron-son QC, Sheriff of Lothian and Borders at Edinburgh, 51; Mr Michael Aspel, television presenter. 64; Sir Charles Ball Bt. company chairman, 73: Lord Boardman, for mer chairman, National Westminster Bank, 78; Mr P.W. Botha, former president of South Africa, 81; Sir James Bottomley, former diplomat, 77; The Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 68; Dame Fiona Caldicott. consultant psychotherapist, 55: Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 80; Mr Keith Dawson, former Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 60; Mr Brendan Foster, former Olympic athlete, 49; Mr Joe Frazier, heavy-weight boxer, 53; Baroness Hamwee. solicitor and local councillor, 50: Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, former Head of Training, Metropolitan Police, 61: Miss Anne Howells, opera and concert singer, 56; Sir Anthony McCowan, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 69; Mr Denys Milne, former managing director. BP Oil, 71: Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary of the Labour Party, 76: The Very Re-Dr John Moses, Dean of St Paul's, 58; Mr Des O'Connor, comedian, 65; Miss Luise Rainer, actress, 87; Sir John Rennie, former Commissioner-General, UNRWA, 80; Sir Terence Streeton, former diplomat, 67; Sir Swinton Thomas, a Lord Justice of

The innocent must be praised, the guilty stigmatised

A fairly prominent member of the Church of England's General Synod has just sent me an article from *Penthouse* magazine. It was only published in the American edition, and describes at considerable length the antics of a group of middle-aged homosexual priests in Long Island who used to import rent boys from Brazil until one of them fell in love with one of his imports, and "married" him in a ceremony conducted in church one evening, with the priest in full drag as Madonna.

It's difficult to tell this story tastefully, and Penthenese didn't try very hard. The Episcopal Church of the USA has now launched a formal enquiry; and the bishop in whose diocese all this happened has withdrawn for six months to

seek treatment for alcoholism. The priest who sent me all this material was not. I think, trying to prove the superiority of American Penthouse to its British edition. He had a theological point to make. Like most conservatives in the Church of England, he believes that the Episcopal Church of the USA epitomises everything that can go wrong with a liberal Christian denomination, and can be used to prove that liberalism in the pulpit must lead to sodomy in the pews. While the Penthouse article was light on theological detail, the consequences in the pews were revoltingly clear.

faith preason

The churches are bedevilled by sexual scandal. What should the Church of England do about it? Deal dramatically with offenders, says Andrew Brown.

The original article came out in the autumn of last year. But it will undoubtedly hang around for years as an Awful Warning of what happens when you let the liberals take over. I have to say this reading of it seems to me nonsensical. The link between right belief and right behaviour is elastic at the best of times and the pathways of sin are subtle. First, there is the problem that all Christians, from St Paul onwards, or downwards, know that they have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; and that this will happen to them again. Then, there is the still more horrible truth that these sins are usually the same ones; and that no amount of orthodoxy can by itself ensure good behaviour. There seem to have been plenty of im- greatest gift to the Church of England.

peccably orthodox Roman Catholic priests who exploited their mistresses. Still, the Penthouse story does show that the Church of England has been fairly lucky in its scandals. I am rea-sonably certain that no priests here have

ever been caught going through homosexual marriage ceremonies in drag; it may even be the case that none has even done it. In their place is the steady dribble of heterosexual scandals. which were what I had actually meant to write about until the e-mailed Penthouse story appeared on my screen. And they pose a difficulty for the Church be-yond the mere sinfulness involved. The problem lies exactly in the fact that they are scandals: they are public dramas, which require a public resolution. This is not just an argument about hypocrisy. Whenever a priest does something ridiculous or disgusting it will be blamed on his theology; but that

does not make him a hypocrite. The problem lies in the theatrical aspects of a scandal. Though it is often said that the Church of England does ceremonies better than almost any other body, it has grown less and less confident about performing. In fact Dr Carey's apparently unshakeable selfconfidence as a performer, his certainty that there is an appreciative audience for whatever he has to say, may be his There are signs the Church is recovering its theatrical nerve, so to speak. But the public resolution of scandal is still something it does badly and needs to do better. Pastorally it seems to do fine. I can't imagine any Anglican dergyman anywhere being as crashingly insensi-tive as Cardinal Winning appeared to

be in the Roddy Wright scandal.
Yet the public, dramatic side of the business is still mismanaged. There needs to be a dramatically satisfying resolution to a scandal if it is not to be poisonous; it is one of the great strengths of conservatives over liberals that they understand the importance of this. The innocent must be praised, and the guilty stigmatised. The resources for any amount of public drama are still there: later this month a County Durham priest will be tried in the palace at Bishop Auckland on charges of seducing a parishioner he should have been counselling. This is rather distressing for those of us who have spent much of last year explaining that the mechanism would never be used again. It is of course a great deal more distressing for

the participants.
But it is a necessary opportunity for the Church to establish, through the cruel theatre of the law courts, that priests do not abuse their position and their parishioners - or that, if they do, they stop being priests.

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business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

British banks face exclusion from Target system

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

The first concrete evidence that the UK's lukewarm attitude to European monetary union (EMU) is damaging British interests was revealed by a new report yesterday.

Despite strong Bank of England lobbying, the European Monetary Institute has left the way open for the exclusion of UK banks from full access to funds under the single currency through restrictions on Target, the planned payments system

The Independent, Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the EMI, said: "To be candid, if the UK stays out of EMU and does not participate at the beginning, a number of things will escape British influence."

The EMI said yesterday in a long-awaited report on monetary policy under the single currency that the decision to restrict access to Target for nonmember countries would be left to its successor, the Euro-pean Central Bank. The ECB will be composed only of member countries, and the French

In an exclusive interview with and Germans have made clear whether the ECB will impose their absolute determination minimum reserve requirements not to permit London-based banks equal access to euro funds from the new central bank if Britain does not join.

> ECB will have the technical possibility of not granting unlimited credit. If the UK is not there, you will have no voice in that." In a statement the Bank of England noted only that the debate about non-member access to euro funds within the trading day had been left "un-

So too was the question of

on member banks, another proposal the Bank of England has steadfastly opposed. Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-

Mr Lamfalussy warned: "The cellor who was speaking in CB will have the technical posnot joining EMU would not harm London's interests. "I don't think staying out of EMU poses any threat to the predominant position of the City of London," he said.

But City experts were concerned that the two obstacles had not been removed. "It is worrying that a key issue like the

has not been resolved," said Michael Lewis at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Tim Sweeney, director-gen-eral of the British Bankers' Association, said: "The imposition of reserve requirements is unnecessary for the efficient conduct of monetary policy and threatens to distort the market. In an open market, it will also siphon banking business out of ne euro area.

However, the imposition of minimum reserve requirements would put UK banks at an advantage if Britain remained spects, yesterday's report was nouncement of a specific target warmly welcomed by the Bank of England, which had clearly had an influence on its other conclusions.

were judging from the way the Bank of England is participat-ing, I would not have known the UK was not expecting to ion Mr Lamfalussy said: "If I UK was not expecting to join EMU."

In particular, the report recommended the adoption of an explicit target for inflation or the money supply, saying that in practice the operation of monetary policy would be similar in year of the gilts repo market, the day.

question of minimum reserves outside EMU. In other re- either case. The public anwould be essential to assess the performance of the ECB, whose statute makes price stability its overriding responsibility.

The central bank, when it

comes into existence during 1998, will set monetary policy by using open market operations to influence short-term interest rates. These operations will take the form of tenders in the market for "repos", agreements for the sale and repurchase of government securities.

Since the introduction last

Bank has fallen closer into line with continental central banks in its monetary techniques. The EMI report gives details, unanimously agreed, about how banks and other institutions can qualify to take part in the Euro repo market.

It also spells out the need for the ECB to have access to adequate statistics and make its own economic assessments and inflation forecasts.

The full interview with Alexan-dre Lamfalussy, president of the EMI, will be published on Mon-

Warning

muddies

sales

picture

A confusing December retail picture was further muddied

yesterday by disappointing sales figures and a profit warning

from catalogue retailer Argos.

Chiming with a downbeat statement earlier in the week

from Sears, Argos's 4 per cent

growth in like-for-like turnover

paled in comparison with the 32

per cent rise in new year sales

announced yesterday by John

A clutch of trading state-

ments from retailers and retail

related stocks such as Hi-Teu

Sports and Courtaulds Textiles,

followed this week's weaker-

than-expected retail trades

The Confederation of British

Industry in its December Dis-

tributive Trades survey, said

that although sales volumes

were well up on a year earlier,

they fell below retailers' expectations for the period.

The emerging picture has

been one of winners and losers,

with big-ticket consumer

durable items selling better

than fashion, footwear, toys

and gifts. "Christmas was

patchy. Not every retailer en-

joyed the benefit of increased

sales," said Clive Vaughan at re-

tail analysts Verdict. "People

According to Argos, sales in

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entern Right .

the 35 days up to and including

Christmas Eve were up 4 per

cent but the company warned

that 1996 profits were unlikely

to exceed the lower end of mar-

had expected a boom and

they've not got a boom."

Tom Stevenson City Editor

by Argos o

Halifax members to receive £1,300

Banking Correspondent

More than 8 million members of Halifax can expect an average share payout of around £1,300 when the building society floats on the stock market in June. Each qualifying member, including savers and borrowers, will receive a minimum of 200 free shares, which are estimated to be worth between 390p and 450p each. Around 4.1 million people

will be entitled to this basic distribution while the rest will receive an additional hand-out of up to 1,181 shares depending on the balance in their accounts on two key dates.

An additional distribution of shares will be paid to members who had a total balance of at least £1,000 on 25 November 1994 and 24 February 1997. The additional shares will be worked out from the lower of the two

The maximum will be made to savers with more than £50,000 in their accounts. Savers and borrowers are entitled to two payments.

The share price valuations are made by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant banking adviser to Halifax, on the assumption that the society was floated on 16 December 1996. It estimates the society would have had a market capitalisation of £10.4bn to £12bn on that

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, the investment bank, said Halifax was being cautious about its payouts. "My mid point would be their top end," he said.

Over the next few days members of Halifax will receive a 172-page transfer document in which Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the society, urges them to vote in favour of the

"Halifax's conversion will represent the largest single extension of private share ownership ever witnessed in the

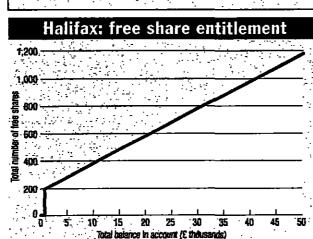
" Mr Blackburn said. Members can vote by post by 17 February or at the special general meeting in Sheffield on

More than 50 per cent of the society's investing members, protection against being taken over 3.3 million, must vote in over.

favour for the flotation to proceed. This is a greater proportion than required by the other societies which intend to become banks, such as Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich, because Halifax is taking a slightly different route to flotation, principally because it has waived its right to a five-year

Countdown to conversion

- Transfer documents and voting forms are being posted now to 8 million members:
- Halifax's conversion and free share distribution needs approval from 3.35 million members -
- Voting forms have to be returned before 18 February
- Savings of at least £100 on 25 November and 24 February 1997 are needed to qualify for free shares.
- Minimum handout is 200 shares which will be worth between £780 and £900
- Maximum hand-out is 1-118 shares, worth £4,606 to £5,315, on balances of £50,000-plus
- Dealings in the shares on the Stock Exchange are due to begin in June



The flotation is likely to receive enough votes to go ahead although it is facing some op-position from Halifax Action Group. "This [flotation] is being done largely to benefit those in the City who have raked in enormous fees and board members whose salaries have and will increase enormously," said Serge Lourie, a chartered accountant who is running the ac-tion group and standing for election to Halifax's board. Mike Ellis, banking and sav-

ings director at Halifax, said the board was aiming to avoid such accusations. "We're not taking share options to distance ourselves from those comments,'

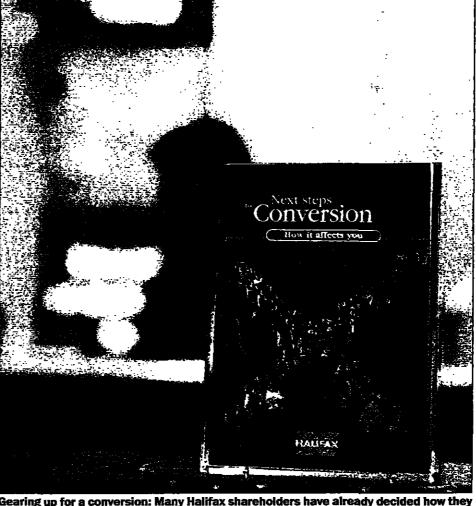
Halifax is not establishing executive share options at con-version but intends to introduce a long-term incentive scheme in 1999. Directors of the society participate in a short-term and medium-term bonus scheme. The medium-term one will not pay out unless Halifax completes its conversion process.

The directors have waived their rights to the free shares being distributed to employees of the society and will only take those shares they are entitled to

Mr Blackburn, who earned a total of £405,000 in the year to January 1996, will receive 707

There is a cash bonus for members aged under 18 because they are ineligible to vote. It is approximately 9.4 per cent of balances in share ac-To cope with the first day of

trading Halifax will ask members in April or May to indicate whether they intend to sell their shares. It will offer members keeping their shares three options - placing them in a nominee account, receiving the share certificates, or putting self and her two grown-up sons the shares into a PEP account. on holiday in the summer.



Gearing up for a conversion: Many Halifax shareholders have already decided how they

Lucky savers head for the sun

well lead to many Halifax members deciding to spend their windfall on lapping up some sun this summer.

"In January I'm feeling in the doldrums. If I'm sensible I'll take a holiday," said Lily Armitage, a secretary from Bexleyheath and Halifax member. But it could be a close call.

"We'll probably spend it on our home. We have a very old Victorian home," she said. Kay Hamilton, who works as

secretarial assistant in the chairman's office at Halifax in London, intends to cash in some of her shares to take her-

employee scheme, though," the 47-year-old divorcée said. Ms Hamilton, who lives in Putney, is a self-confessed carpetbagger and will get free shares from the forthcoming Woolwich and Al-liance & Leicester flotations.

Other Halifax members, such as Elaine Arter, 45, of Hornchurch, intend to hold on to their shares. "We don't need the money right now," she said. However, she thought her two adult children were more likely to spend the proceeds of their

Tracey Pollard, 26, from Leyton, will keep her shares, as will Russell Watling, a 36-year-old software development manag-

fordshire. "I'll keep them. It's probably a good thing to have shares in the banking sector, Mr Watling said.

However, he had some reservations about the flotation. Building society borrowers and savers will lose out in the long term," he said.

Jeremy Brazil, a 34-year-old insurance underwriter from Reading, has a mortgage with Halifax but took it out too late to receive free shares. He is eligible for the Woolwich payout, however. "We've just moved house. It cost an arm and a leg and we'll use it for a holiday, said Mr Brazil, who is married

ket expectations. Analysts had pencilled in profits of between £140m and £152m for the year to December. Argos's shares tumbled 109.5p to 623.5p. Other retailers followed suit

yesterday as the market fretted that the nascent consumer boom was benefiting some retailers considerably less than others. Marks & Spencer slipped 17p to 465.5p despite a statement from Courtaulds Textiles which said it had experienced strong demand from M&S, one of its biggest customers.

Next slipped 22.5p to 529p, House of Fraser was 5.5p off at 141p and WH Smith closed

16.5p to 443.5p. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Mees Pierson Securities, said he had expected like-for-like sales growth for Argos over the Christmas period of at least 7 or 8 per cent. He said Argos's Christmas figures made Dixons' trading figures out earlier this week look more impressive. Dixons said in the eight weeks to 4 January sales grew 8 per cent like-for-like from a year earlier. Despite that, its shares fell 27p to 511p last Wednesday on the day of the announcement and yesterday closed a further

Tokyo plunge sets tone for market jitters

and Diane Coyle

Markets around the world experienced another volatile session yesterday after Tokyo set a jittery tone with a 770-point plunge. Higher-than-expected employment figures in America sent Wall Street into an early downward spiral, catching London in the backwash despite receding fears here of an early rise in UK base rates. Stock markets bore the brunt

of investors' nerves, but in the US Treasury bonds also tumbled after a government report showed the unexpected rise in jobs last month was increasing vages, fanning inflation and bringing closer a rise in the cost of borrowing. The Labor De-

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Statistics as of 10 January

-1.29

-3.2

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-606.51

-256.82

-13.71

FTSE SmallCap 2229.15

FTSE All-Share 2005.15

partment said 262,000 jobs were created last month, more than the 200,000 economists had expected and a worrying inflationary pointer, analysts said.

Worries that the cost of American money would rise soon helped push the yield on 30-year government bonds to their highest level since September. "Slowly but surely the market's beginning to factor in a bit of a tightening," said one US fund manager.

The fall in Tokyo took the slide in the Nikkei index to more than 2,000 points in the year's first full week of trading - according to one estimate a sum half the size of Canada's whole economy has been wiped off Japanese stocks over the past

Change(%) 1996/97 ligh 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

3632.30 3.81

4015.30 3.47

1816.60 3.74

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1791.95 3.68

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STOCK MARKETS

At 17,303.65, the benchmark Japanese index has fallen more than 10 per cent in only five dealing sessions to its lowest level for 17 months. It has been the largest five-day decline since 1990 when the Japanese bubble economy burst and the stock market started a fall that wiped out half its value in less than two years. Selling in Tokyo has reached

panic proportions according to some market observers with eight shares falling for every one that has risen. "They're selling the good as well as the bad," said one Japanese fund manager. Another added: "There are so many problems with the economy that have not been solved. The market is melting

6.72

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Money Market Rates

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INTEREST RATES

In London, shares were hit by an early 67-point fall on Wall Street, despite a later recovery in the US market, and an unexpectedly downbeat assessment of December retail sales from the Confederation of British Industry, which was compounded by a profit warning from catalogue retailer Argos. The FTSE 100 index closed 30.4 points lower at 4.056.6 as the Wall Street drag

was tempered by sluggish manufacturing output figures which appeared to increase Kenneth Clarke's chances of getting to the general election without the need to raise interest rates further. They showed an unexpected drop in manufacturing output last month. Some City experts blamed the

Long Bond (%) Year Ago

<u>617</u>

7.73

probably a blip, as it was too soon for sterling's rise to have had much impact. The pound dipped in reaction to the fresh hopes that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would get away with leaving the cost of borrowing unchanged before the election. It fell by a pfennig to close at DM2.6635.

fall on the recent strength of the

pound for the setback. But the

Treasury and other City econ-

omists said the decline was

Manufacturing output fell 0.5 per cent during December, with declines across a wide range of industries. Higher energy ouput due to bad weather took total industrial production up 0.4 per cent during the month.

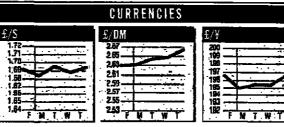
£684m Gehe bid set to clinch Lloyds battle bid last January. Gehe esti-

Magnus Grimond

Gehe, the German pharmaceuticals distributor, yesterday looked close to clinching the 12month bid battle for Lloyds Chemists after raising its allcash offer to £684m.

market to scoop up just under 21 per cent of Lloyds' shares soon after the announcement. that the offer was being raised from 500p to 525p a share and made final.

The move comes a week before the final deadline for higher offers, but Dieter Kammerer, Gehe chairman, said the delay was damaging the



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declined by around 10 per cent. Adding that back to the revised terms, would value them at more like 560p to 570p a share, he claimed. There was no word from rival bidder UniChem yesterday but analysts said it

mated the value of Lloyds had

The bidder moved into the would be difficult for it to top Gehe's terms.

Shares in Lloyds jumped 14p to 526.5p, but UniChem's were also 10p higher at 256p on expectations that it would not in-crease its offer. If UniChem does bow out, directors could make £4.3m in option profits and pay-offs, while the stake belonging to Allen Lloyd, chair-

purchase of warehouse retailer

Nurdin & Peacock. The charge, which comes on top of £52m already taken against the N&P acquisition, sent the shares 17.5p lower at 381.5p. In a trading statement Booker said N&P's sales over cent lower than the previous

Booker plans to take the restructuring charge against its 1996 results because of rationalisation of N&P's depot system. The company said it had identified opportunities to use space at N&P depots for its foodservice business, allowing the the Christmas period were 6 per rationalisation of Booker's network of Foodservice sites.

Market Report, page 20 man, could be worth £32m. business. Since the start of the 13.5p lower at 494p. apatean combanies Booker needs extra £25m to close sites **Patrick Tooher** year, though profits were lightly higher than expected. Shares in Booker fell sharply yes-Booker, the UK's largest cash terday after the food distribution and carry group, said group company warned it would take sales for the year rose 3 per cent on a like-for-like basis while sales a further £25m charge to close some food distribution sites folover the Christmas period were £ (London) 0.5914 -0.02 0.6474 lowing last November's £264m slightly ahead of last year. £ (N York) ± 0.5839 -0.75 0.6472

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'Since he sold his original, core music business to EMI four years ago, Mr

Branson has struggled to find anything that comes close to filling the gap'

Virgin phenomenon rides on a lot of hot air

recognised global brand to have emerged from Britain over the past 20 years? In a recent article for The Economist, Richard Branson, Virgin's founder and guiding light, came close to making this claim. Mr Branson's illfated attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon has reminded us all that in some respects at least, he is probably right. Furthermore, the inference he draws from it that this is a quite damning indictment of the British economy - is right too.

While it is true that there are still quite a lot of born-in-Britain brand names waltzing around the world - BP, Shell, Unileyer, ICI, the BBC and even British Airways - these are not recent creations. There is nothing that has come out of Britain since the war to compare with BMW, Nike, McDonalds or

Except, perhaps, Virgin. The pity of the Virgin phenomenon, however, is that this is precisely what it is - more of a phenomenon than a brand and one, moreover, that feeds almost entirely off the publicity-seeking antics of one man. There is no definable product behind Virgin that sustains it as a brand. There is no ultimate driving machine. or Walkman, or fashion sportswear. Many and varied are the attempts to stamp estab-lished products with the Virgin name, but this is a rather different thing. And although the Virgin name is hugely well known, it is nel Tunnel rail link project, an even smaller

s Virgin really the only internationally, also the case that for the time being its fame, stake in Eurostar, a stake in MGM cinemas is unmatched by its substance.

In that sense Virgin is a quintessentially British thing. A bit like the Beatles, everyone's heard of Virgin, but it is hard to know whether this fame generates any tangible benefit in other words, is not the Virgin phe-nomenon just a lot of bluster and front,

mostly (forgive the analogy) hot air?
I read somewhere that Mr Branson's balloon trip generated well over £300m of free publicity for the Virgin "empire", or more than Pepsi Cola spent worldwide on its much-criticised relaunch. I find this rather hard to believe, especially since the exercise was a damp squib. But let's accept that even disappointing publicity is good publicity, especially when it is free. Free publicity for what though?

Since he sold his original, core music business to EMI four years ago, Mr Branson has struggled to find anything that comes close to filling the gap. These days Virgin amounts to a small but highly successful and profitable airline, a small and moderately successful soft and alcoholic drinks business, a small and entirely unproven financial services operation, the Virgin megastores (reasonably profitable in the UK, unprofitable overseas), a relatively successful films and entertainment division, a couple of rail in the UK, now rebranded Virgin, and ... yes, that's about it.

صكذا من الاعل

With total annual sales of approaching £1.5bn, this is obviously no small enterprise Furthermore, at the moment it is reasonably profitable. Pre-tax profits this year should amount to about £100m. The vast bulk of this, however, is Virgin Atlantic. The rest wouldn't even qualify Virgin for the FTSE 350. By international standards, it is tiny. What is more, Mr Branson's hotch potch of entirely unrelated interests could hardly be a more unfashionable form of corporate organisation, in stock market terms at least - this on the not-unreasonable logic that people who are good at running airlines are unlikely to be good at financial services too.

Mr Branson believes received wisdom of this sort to be a canard, and in an entrepreneurial but small-scale way he is proving his point. His comparison of Virgin with the Japanese Keiretsu is an entirely bogus one, however. While it is true that Mitsubishi, one of the largest Keiretsu (family of companies) lends its name to a whole range of business interests from cars to textiles and financial services, the link between these companies is not nearly as strong as he would have us believe. Internationally it is not recognised at all. John Smith of Surbiton might wish to buy a Mitsubishi car but he is highly unlikely to bank with them too.

Virgin is a quite different sort of "family". Both in ownership and management terms, it is dominated by just one man. Mr Branson is the cement that holds Virgin together and drives it forward. Without him, it would

very rapidly fall apart. But let's not be churlish about this. Virgin is responsible for a string of entrepre-neurial successes, some of which have also pushed out the barriers of product development. There is nothing particularly remarkable about this though. Rather, Virgin's uniqueness is derived from the fact that such a disparate collection of quite small businesses could command such strong international recognition. This is undoubtedly a wonderful and heroic achievement. But Virgin as a panacea for Britain's economic woes, a new global brand for the next century? I'm going to take some convincing.

Any Chancellor who took 10p off the ba-sic rate of income tax in present circumstances would be accused of recklessness to the point of criminality. That, however, is roughly what the free share handouts from demutualising building societies are going to deliver to the British masses over the next year - more if the stock market flotation of the Norwich Union and other likely life assurance demutualisations are taken into account. In total well over £20bn of new money

of that windfall is realised (with the rest left stashed away in the bottom drawer) we are still talking about a very substantial boost to consumer spending.
Is this really the windfall we all think? For

those without qualifying building society accounts the effect will almost certainly be financially negative. Even for the 15 million members who benefit directly, the net effect may not be particularly advantageous. This is because pump-priming consumer spend-ing on this scale, even when it is not being done by the Government, must inevitably result in higher interest rates. Quite how much higher interest rates will be by the end of the year as a result of all this is anyone's guess, but higher they certainly will be. Borrowing costs and mortgages will be that much more expensive than if the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, the Woolwich and others had not floated.

Furthermore, it may well be that demu-tualisation will in itself lead to higher longterm borrowing costs and less competitive deposit rates. After flotation, the main priority of building societies will be to serve shareholders. That means hundreds of millions of pounds in dividend payments that would otherwise go towards keener interest rates. Pressure to improve short-term returns yet further by milking the customer will be intense. All of which goes to show will be entering the economy. If only a half | that there is no such thing as a free lunch.

£500m British Gas demerger costs shock City

Business Correspondent

British Gas yesterday surprised investors and analysts by announcing a further £500m of restructuring provisions, inflatby huge redundancy costs, in paration for next month's de-

merger of its supply business, which will be called Centrica. The write-offs, disclosed in more than 200 pages of docu-ments to shareholders outlining details of the demerger, will more than wipe out the company's annual profits for 1996. They come on top of expected provisions announced yesterday of £341m to cover the recent ns by and mobil to renegotiate some of coming to terms with the write-British Gas's £30bn-worth of offs and attempting to put a

long-term North Sea "take-orcontracts to buy gas at British Gas had already announced exceptional charges of £457m in the first nine months of last year to cover losses on its take-or-pay contracts. Based on analysts' forecasts, the total write-offs would plunge the company into losses of about £400m when the results for 1996 are announced on 27

bruary, compared with profits in 1995 of £607m. The group said the £500m charges would cover further redundancy payments, write-downs on the value of British Gas's huge property portfolio and the costs of the demerger

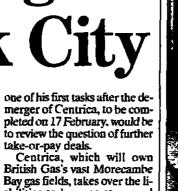
process itself, estimated at one of his first tasks after the de-£55m. Roy Gardner, chief executive designate of Centrica. defended the scale of the writeoffs, which he maintained were in line with the company's existing "conservative" accounting

A company source said the provisions also reflected the fact that 10,000 more staff had taken voluntary redundancy than anticipated. The original £1.65bn restructuring programme unveiled three years ago planned for staff cuts of some 25,000, but in recent months more employees have left British Gas as morale in the company slumped.

value on Centrica and the remaining half of the business, which will be renamed "BG plc". One said: "These provisions are much bigger than we'd expected. We had assumed there would be further write-offs of around £200m or £300m but not on this scale."

British Gas also dampened speculation vesterday of further imminent deals to renegotiate take-or-pay contracts. Following the agreements with BP and Mobil, representing around 20 per cent of the total liabilities, analysts had been expecting similar arrangements with Shell and other leading North Sea oil

However, Mr Gardner said



Bay gas fields, takes over the liabilities to buy gas at around 19p a therm, much higher than current market prices of 15p a However in recent months

gas prices on the spot markets have been rising, alleviating some of the pain. Mr Gardner explained:

"We've progressed with a number of other deals but now I want to pause for a while. One parameter is the rise in the price, though clearly we still have a problem." The demerger documents

confirmed that Richard Giordano, British Gas chairman, will step down earlier than expected as chairman of Centrica at the end of June and will be replaced by Sir Michael Perry, former head of Unilever, the Anglo Dutch foods and detergents group.

Following his departure, Mr Giordano's salary of £450,000. unchanged since his arrival at British Gas in 1994, would be halved, reflecting his diminished role as non-executive chairman of BG.

Under the demerger, existing British Gas shareholders will receive one Centrica share for every share they already own.



Mary Walz: 'Working with the SFA has been arduous and protracted. I'm glad it's over'

Walz escapes fine over Barings collapse but must pay £5,000 costs

Banking Correspondent

Mary Walz, the former Barings

executive, has been reprimanded by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) and ordered to pay £5,000 towards the regulator's costs. However, she has escaped a fine and has not been banned from working in

last year to settle one charge brought by the SFA. Publication of the settlement details was delayed while the SFA waited to discover if Ron Baker, her boss at Barings, would appeal a tri- Bax. bunal decision against him.

Working with the SFA has been arduous and protracted and I'm glad it's finally over." Ms Walz said vesterday. An industrial tribunal refused to grant her the £500,000 bonus she was awarded just hours before Barings collapsed in 1995.

The SFA has banned other Ms Walz avoided taking her Barings executives, including case to a tribunal by agreeing Peter Norris, the former chief executive of the bank, from working in the City. It intends to press on with two remaining tribunals in the Barings affair

against Ian Hopkins and James However, the SFA has failed to discipline the former chair-

man, Peter Baring, and his deputy, Andrew Tuckey. The SFA said Ms Walz accepted that between December 1994 and February 1995 she had failed to act with due skill, care

and diligence. 'She did not properly monitor the proprietary trading ac-tivity known as the switching business in that she did not appreciate some alerting factors that occurred during this period," the SFA said.

BA hits back over rivals' link-up claims

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

British Airways and American Airlines yesterday launched a vigorous defence of their proposed alliance, hitting back at rival carriers' claims that it would create an unprecedented monopoly on some of the most lucrative transatlantic routes.

The two airlines were filing their joint application to the US Department of Transportation requesting formal approval for the alliance, which would give them some 60 per cent of flights between the UK and the US.

The link-up, which involves pooling revenues, timetables and facilities, depends on the successful outcome of "open skies" talks between the two governments aimed at liberal-ising access to Heathrow Airport. Negotiations are due to restart in three weeks' time.

British Airways insisted it was confident it would get the alliance approved by UK competition authorities. The Office of Fair Trading has given the deal its provisional approval on condition that the partners give up 168 lucrative runway slots at Heathrow. However, rival airlines have attacked the conditions as far too lenient. They would still leave British Airways and American with some 3.000 slots at the airport.

The alliance partners also submitted their response vesterday to the OFT report, claiming the conditions recommended were "excessive". But David Holmes, BA's director of regulatory affairs, told a entition of this nonsense about news conference in Washington

that the company was prepared to agree to give up some of its slots, but only on condition that it was compensated for the loss at a fair market value.

He continued: "I won't disguise the fact that the regulatory process in the UK has taken longer than expected. However, there are no competition problems that cannot be solved by BA agreeing to undertakings.

Rivals have stepped up their campaign against the alliance in their own submissions to the OFT, claiming that British Airways' plan to sell the slots would give the company a huge "war chest" which it would use to put other carriers out of business. Experts have estimated the 168 slots at Heathrow, equivalent to 12 round-trips a day, would net £180m.

The whole issue of slot tradig has decome more confuse this week after news emerged that the European Commission has concluded that the practice is illegal under EC rules. The admission by sources close to Neil Kinnock, the transport commissioner, threatens to undermine British Airways' negotiating position. The EC is still investigating the alliance and has insisted that it needs European approval before it can operate.

Yesterday, a spokesman for American said the alliance would be the spur to a 'dramatic" increase in competition in the UK-US airline market as new carriers gained access to Heathrow. "We are flabbergasted by constant repa monopoly," he said.

IN BRIEF

1.00

• Northern Rock, the building society planning a £1bn stock market flotation in the autumn, plans to spend up to £40m expanding its nursing home activities. The deal involves Kingsclear Homes, a private Middlesex-based operaator with 23 nursing homes and 1250 beds. It will add to the 15 homes and 720 beds already run by Northern Rock's Regency Care Homes subsidiary. Northern Rock is one of four building societies planning to abandon its mutual status and convert to a bank this year, a process which will mean shares being handed out to an estimated 15 million people.

• The Spanish government yesterday gave the green light for the privatisation of the remaining 21 per cent stake in the for-mer state-owned communication giant Telefonica in Spain's biggest - Vatisation operation to date, writes Elizabeth Nash in Madrid. Nearly 200 million shares are to be offered for public sale on 20 January, twice the amount already on the market. The Spanish stock market has soared to record levels in recent days in anticipation of the bonanza, with double the usual volume of share dealing recorded on Thursday. The government yesterday approved measures intended to guarantee that more than half the forthcoming packet of shares remains in Spanish hands.

* At least two South Korean companies said they were talking with Airbus Industrie about joining its jumbo jet project aimed at breaking Boeing's monopoly in large airliners. Samsung Aerospace Industries and Korean Air said they and several other companies were involved in talks about an aircraft capable of carrying at least 550 passengers. Airbus confirmed it was holding talks with South Korean companies.

 Volkswagen's "defeat" at the hands of General Motors was greeted with euphoria on the Frankfurt stock exchange yester-day, propelling the German company's shares to an all-time high. VW shares hit DM725 in the morning before closing at DM708.

David Morris, chairman of Northern Electric, which lost its independence over Christmas in a bitter £782m hostile takeover battle, yesterday urged any outstanding investors in the company to accept the 650p-a-share all-cash offer from US-controlled CE Electric. CE has received acceptances from shareholders speaking for 79.8 per cent of the company.

 Grundig has appointed Credit Suisse First Boston to help it find new partners and investors following the decision by Dutch electronic giant Philips to cut links with the German consumer electronics group. Grundig said Philips' decision to restrict its role that of a passive minority shareholder was surprising.

• Loades, the Midlands-based engineering group, plans to move from a full listing to the junior Alternative Investment Market. The company also said it would seek shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of the issued share capital. The proposed transfer is subject to shareholder approval at an extraordinary general meeting to be held on 4 February.

Spot winners in £15bn society bonanza

Anyone who thinks the economy is not set for a buoyant 1997, driven by strong consumer spending, has not reck-oned with the £15bn to be released from the Woolwich and Halifax building society flotations, details of which emerged this week.
Together with the proposed

flotations of Norwich Union. Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock, an estimated £25bn of money that people had not previously counted on will be burning a hole in consumers' pockets. This represents an un-

precedented boost to the national economy, with very uncertain consequences. They are uncertain because nobody knows how much of those windfalls will be squirrelled away and how much blown in . an orgy of "what the hell" consumerism. The balance will depend on how good people feel about their finances generally, but against a backdrop of rising house prices. low interest rates and falling unemployment it would be surprising if an awful lot of the cash were not splurged.

Another important factor is likely to be the size of the payouts from Woolwich and Halifax. With payouts aver-aging about £1,300, many people will take the view that such an amount is hardly going to transform their pension fund but will buy a very nice holiday, or that multi-media PC they've been umming and ashing about for the

Windfall winners

Halifax Dixons Kingfisher MFI Airtours Reg Vardy	390-450p 496p 639.5p 190.5p 823.5p 315.5p
Reg Vardy	315.5p

that low-finance Ford Mondeo they've seen in the garage window or replace that tired sofa. For those lucky enough to be

benefiting from this moneyfor-nothing handout, the key question is when, if at all, to cash in their chips and take part in the consumer blow-out. For everyone else, the more relevant question is how to benefit at one remove from all that spending. For new Halifax shareholders, the best advice would be to

hold onto the shares at least for the first few weeks or months following the transfer of shares. That is because, unusually for a company worth £12bn on the stock market, the big investing institutions will be heavily underweight with all the shares in the hands of the general public. There will be an unseemly scramble to buy a suitable weighting in the stock, and unless everyone rushes for an early exit, the share price will be bid up sharply. Holding onto Abbey National shares paid handsome dividends after that first con-

For everyone clse, attention should focus on which sectors and companies are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries of the past year or so. It might make largess. To answer that question a good down-payment for we have drawn up a portfolio of

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

likely building society bonanza

Dixons said earlier this week that computers had been one of its best-selling items and there is no reason to suppose that trend is going to reverse this year. As owner of PC World, one of the leading computer superstores, Dixons should do well.

A £1,300 payout will go a long way to replacing a household's washing machine and dishwasher, so expect sales of white goods to be strong at Comet, which is owned by B&Q to Woolworth's group Kingfisher. Furniture should sell well at MFI, where profits are on a strong recovery tack.

Our other hunch is that Halifax and Woolwich shares will be sold to pay for holidays and new cars. In these sectors we are performance are not hard to

going for quality, even if the find. Normally a highly cyclical shares already discount much of industry, insurance rates have the good news. Airtours is the

Brokers miss the party

Insurance brokers have completely missed the stock market party of the last few years. One hundred pounds invested five years ago in the sub-sector, which ranges from the mighty Sedgwick to the lowly PWS. would now be worth something

The reasons for this dismal

Insurance brokers lag stock market indices rebased, 1 January 1992-100

like £64.

best of the bunch in a recover-

ing holiday industry and Reg

Vardy looks good value after

strong profits growth this week.

been weakening almost continuously since the early 1990s. But whereas in a normal cycle weaker players would eventually be driven out, there has been less evidence of capacity cuts this time and the outlook is for soft rates to continue for the foreseeable future. It was therefore with con-

siderable relief that the market

heard the news last month that Lloyd Thompson and JIB, two of the largest second-line brokers, had agreed to merge to create Jardine Lloyd Thompson. Expectations that that would be part of a consolidation trend appeared to be confirmed yesterday when two of the mailer players, Lowndes Lambert and Fenchurch, were forced to admit they were in merger talks after the latter's shares started to move earlier this week. Fenchurch, which traded at 49p at the beginning of the week, added a further 8.5p to 66.5p, while Lowndes

put on 7p to 110p on the news. Any merger is likely to be defensive, given that growth is more likely to come from costculting and market share gains than any expansion of the top line. Tony Silverman, insurance analyst at NatWest Securities, expects market growth to be in the "low single-digit" per cent over the next few years. He estimates there could be scope to overseas earnings.

shave at least 5 per cent from the combined costs of the two brokers, put at around £115m.

Beyond that, though, Fenchurch also looks in need of Lowndes' management skills. Revenue and operating profits have grown sluggishly since 1991 and last year was torrid, with a profits warning and the defection of a team of South American specialists in February followed by a halved final dividend and the loss of a chunk of business in the

The logic behind the JLT merger looks more soundly based. Lloyd Thompson's highly successful London market-based business should fit nicely with Jardine's extensive foreign network and its strong links with the Far East, one of the few insurance markets still showing reasonable growth. JLT, when it finally emerges,

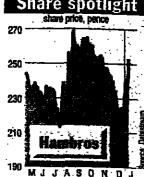
should be a reasonable bet for the long term, but punters hoping to catch the next wave of consolidation could take a look at Nelson Hurst, a group with the sort of international coverage that might attract abid from a more London-orientated broker. Mr Silverman also points to the potential for slimming down overheads at CE Heath, where costs have been traditionally higher than average. The shares, unchanged at 96p, stand on a forward rating of under 8. But the overall sector is likely to continue to be dull, particularly in view of the impact of the higher pound on

Data Bank

FTSE 100 4056.6 - 30.4 **FTSE 250** 4507.8 - 9.9 **FTSE 350**

2021.3 - 12.8 **SEAQ VOLUME** 1.08bn shares, 43,668 bargains Gilts Index N/A

Share spotlight



Oil majors give erratic New York the cold shoulder

The unpredictable US em- itive trading developments, ployment figures, which have achieved a justified reputaboil tion for tripping share markets,

were at it again yesterday. Footsie, looking distraught for most of the morning session, suddenly plunged more than 50 points as alarm bells echoed around the stock market about New York's likely response to strong US jobless figures. In the event the Dow Jones Average survived, at least during London opening, the jobs data in rather better shape than had appeared likely; so by the close Footsie's alarmist fall had been cut to 30.4 points at 4,056.6. The

weakness of the Tokyo market was once again largely ignored. Oils and power shares were oblivious to the machinations of US statistics. The prospects of more cold weather helped the major oil groups higher and which kept second-liners on the

Cairn Energy rose a further 17p to a 485.5p peak although the headlong advance of British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate slowed with a modest 10.5p gain to 1,021p. Lasmo was the day's best performing blue chip, up 8p to

243.5p. Panmure Gordon recently put a 300p valuation on the shares but any bidder, and there is a growing suspicion one might appear soon, would probably have to pay around 350p. National Power and Power-Gen, the generators, continued to defy gravity. There is persistent demand for the shares

which can only partly be due to dividend yield considera-tions. PG surged 9p to 596p, taking it to near its year's high. NP rose 11p to 478.5p.
Stores were rattled by the

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

trading statement. Argos slumped 110p to 623p, unset-tling Next, off 22.5p at 529p; Great Universal Stores 22.5p to 580p; Marks & Spencer 17p to 465.5p and Dixons 13.5p to

494p. Lloyds Chemists added 14p to 526.5p as one of the bidders, the German Gehe group, lifted its bid to 525p and moved into the market, building a 20.91 per cent stake.

Financials, on hopes of corporate activity, were strong with M&G, the unit trust group, 79p higher at 1,199p. Hambros, the merchant bank which saw off the unwelcomed

16p to 253p as SBC Warburg drew attention to its controlling stake in high-flying Ham-bro Countrywide. The estate agent was unchanged at 111p after climbing from 36p in the

past year.

John D Wood, the estate agent, is expected to produce figures later this month; around £1.2m is expected. The shares fell 2p to 87.5p. Fenchurch, the insurance broker, seems set to collect the

rumoured bid. The shares rose 8.5p to 66.5p after merger talks with Lowndes Lambert, up 7p at 110p, were an-

the insurance broking industry. More get-togethers are expected.

Ryland, the garage group, motored 28p to 107.5p after re-porting a bid approach and Arabis, an engineer and jew-ellery group which used to be called Excalibur, moved ahead 5.5p to 22p as bid talks opened. Imperial Chemical Indus-tries remained under the whip of the HSBC James Capel

downgrading, falling 16p to 735p after touching 716.5p. P&O, on Kleinwort Benson support, rose 17p to 620p.

The market continued to

awaken to the problems ster-ling's strength holds for many groups. Tate & Lyle was lowered 16.5p to 468.5p as UBS downgraded on currency concerns. The three spirit giants were also on the receiving end of currency worries. Allied Domecq lost 8p to 424.5p: Grand Metropolitan 13p to 432.5p and Guinness 3p

er, is riding high, partly on hopes it will make a killing Williams Holdings, the conglomerate, 7.5p to 336.5p by repeating its sell advice. It believes Willams sum-of-the-computer milleanium prob-

peak. Buy circulars appeared this week from Teather & Greenwood and Merrill Lynch and a 280p agency cross in-trigued the market. T&G is looking for profits of £33m last year, up from £24.1m. This year's estimate is £40m. Superframe, reflecting

Dean Corporation's control of 25.8 per cent of the photoframe group's capital, gained 2p to 20p. Atlantic Telecom rose 3p to

a 150.5p peak on ABN Amro Hoare Govert support. Fulmar, which came to mar-

lem. Kleinwort Benson is parts valuation is 317p.

SIG, the former Sheffield Insulation, rose 9.5p to a 274.5p

buy note and NatWest Securities are to be secured as the securities are the securities are to be secured as the securities are to be secured as the securities are t buy note and NatWest Securibuy note and NatWest Securities is also putting pen to paper. JBA, with US quote ambitions, should have produced profits of around £13m last year and £16m is likely this year. The shares, floated at 160p in the summer of 1994, are near their high at 641.5m. They would be higher 641.5p. They would be higher if a US valuation was applied.

Taking Stock

Coventry-based group rank-Coventry-based group rank-ing as the nation's largest car parts distributor, have accel-erated as winter's grip has tightened. They have climbed ket last year, gained 3.5p to 32.5p to 354p this mouth on 165p after doubling its thoughts about the damage to turnover by paying £1.25m for cars from road grit and salt

erase all

MIJASON DE	it was the continuing takeover speculation, plus hopes of pos-		attention of corporate raiders Regent Pacific last year, gained	The proposed deal is the latest example of consolidation in		turnover by paying £1.25m for cars from road grit and salt treatment.
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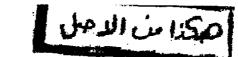
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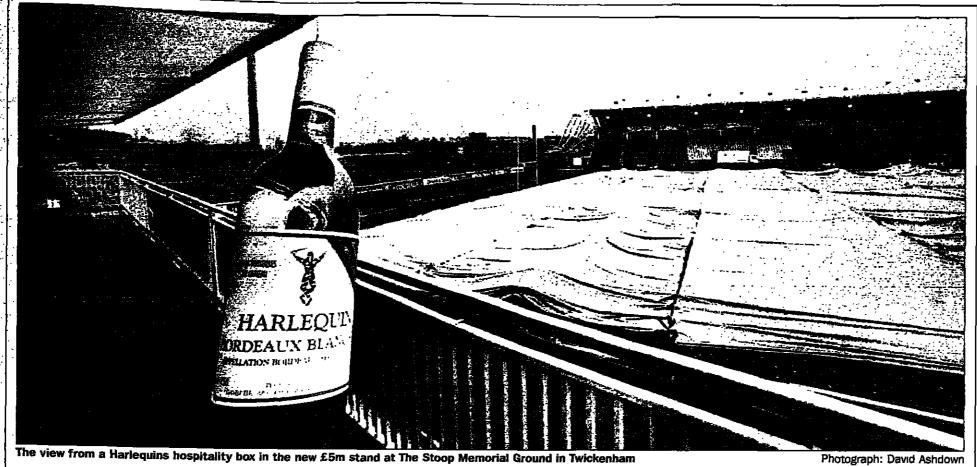
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Harlequins thrive on their sales pitch

If the Rughy Football Union ever decides to place the running of the English game in the hands of a single, all-powerful supremo, it might do worse than consider the talents of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Professionalism may be less than a year old but the Courage League is already beginning to resemble a West End show: Gary Glitter soundtracks, Roy Orbison love songs, the Proclaimers and umpteen troupes of scantily clad dancing girls have all played their part in the wild, wacky and often excruciating world of prematch entertainment.

Had the cold snap not accounted for last month's match between Saracens and Orrell. François Pienaar would have run out at Enfield in the company of a band of Zulu warriors. Having already attended a press roundings of a virtual reality computerdome in Leicester Square, South Africa's World Cup-winning captain must be feeling more like Indiana a business," says Robert Catch-

Jones than a blind-side flanker. Yet beneath the obsession with the puerile, some serious money-making is going on in the commercial departments of England's leading clubs. Leicester, for instance, report record takings in their club shop while Wasps. learning fast under the guidance of their entrepreneurial backer, Chris Wright, are beginning to stand on their

rapid advance towards the 21st century is being made by the most traditional of all English clubs. Harlequins, bankrolled by Japanese money and bolstered by its close connections with both Twickenham and the City, are so far ahead of the game in terms of infrastructure, ideas and business awareness that if they could conference in the chaotic sur-replicate their off-field performance on the pitch, they would win this year's League and Cup double with one eye shut.

own two feet in the market place as well as on the pitch. Ironically, however, the most

We are run absolutely like

Chris Hewett looks at the Courage club doing the business off the field

er, the club's marketing exec-utive, who overseas a full-time staff of seven at The Stoop Memorial Ground.

We have a product to sell and a business plan in place to make sure we sell it. In the old days. Quins took the attitude that it was a privilege for people to do business with them. Now the boot is on the other foot; we get out there and present ourselves to potential clients, pitching for custom like an advertising agency."

That naked but hugely successful commercial approach is reflected in virtually every aspect of the club and with Catcher anticipating a L3m profit from marketing activities this year, Quins are leaving all but the most successful Premiership football clubs with their faces in the dirt.

That £3m estimate does not include gate money; neither

biggest-selling club jersey in the world - in fact, it may well be the biggest seller. Because we now believe it has overtaken the Welsh national jersey, which al-ways used to be the market does it include cash generated by corporate hospitality or restaurant and bar facilities leader. It is perceived by soon to be available at the women in particular to be a Stoop's new £5m stand, which fashion garment and because of will pay for itself inside seven years. We finished the stand to rugby's increased exposure this season, our manufacturers are hotel standard and when it benow struggling to cope with decomes fully operational in mand. We're out of stock here; March, we will have restaurant the interest has been fantastic." space for 1,000 people and bar space for 2,000," Catcher says.

The benefit of all this is felt first and foremost by the director of rugby, Dick Best, and his coaching staff. Best is secure in the knowledge that he can pursue any player in the world with a chequebook the size of the new stand. It is no coincidence that the great New Zealand flanker. Michael Jones, and his long-time back row colleague from Auckland, Zinzan Brooke, are both keen to play out their careers at Quins. They will be free to move when their international contracts expire after this autumn's while their joint asking price of £800,000 for two years puts them beyond the majority of domestic sides. Quins can shoulder the burden with relative ease.

With that sort of spending power. Quins believe they can buy success and clearly intend to try. It is not good news for the England selectors, who already regard The Stoop as a wasted trip because more than half of the current line-up is foreign. By the middle of next season, the Londoners may be fielding a side with only three or four English-qualified players.

Does that worry anyone at The Stoop? Hardly. Little more than a decade ago, Quins were yesterday's men; powerful rivals - Leicester, Bath. Bristol and Gloucester - had left the old school tie brigade light years behind and were setting new standards in every phase of the game. Now, the wheel has come full circle. Money talks louder than ever and the City slickers from Twickers are beginning to All Black tour of England and shout at the tops of their voices.

Veteran's verve a vibrant test for McCullough

Harry Mullan, in Boston, assesses the fighting Irishman's world title challenge

ed the World Boxing Council super-bantamweight champion. Daniel Zaragoza, throughout the 39-year-old's extraordinary career, keeps assuring us that each fight will be his last. "Before every fight," he says, "I tell him: This would be a good fight to go out on but every time. around about the eighth or ninth rounds, he will say: Rafael, I have a new plan. I'm going to fight one more time."

The consensus of opinion among the boxing fraternity gathered in Boston for Zaragoza's 20th world title tight tonight against Ireland's Wayne McCullough is that this time more" will be one too many, that the still substantial remnants of the skill which has made Zaragoza a four-times world champion will not be enough to hold off an eager and ambitious 26-year-old who has already won one championship - the World Boxing Council buntamweight belt - and strongly fancies his chances of a second. "He's tough," McCullough

acknowledges laconically, "but I'm pretty tough too." He would deny it of course. but much of his positive think-ing probably derives from Zaragoza's propensity to bleed. usually during the referee's instructions. The champion's face is like a map of the rivers of the world. He is a strange looking individual, with the wizened and lined face of a much-abused garden gnome transplanted on to the body of an athlete.

Zaragoza himself offers the best analysis of the qualities which have carried him through such a long career, covering one reign as WBC bantamweight champion and three as superbantamweight king. "I may not be the best fighter in the world." he says, 'but I am the most stubborn." He may bleed copiously in every fight, but is immensely reassured by the presence here of the WBC president, Jose Sulaiman, who has chosen to come to Boston told Daniel?

Rafael Mendoza, who has guid-rather than travel to Nashville where the much higher-profile WBC light-middleweight champion. Terry Norris, defends his title tonight, hours before Zaragoza enters the ring at the Hynes Convention Center. It would require naivety on a staggering scale to believe that Sulaiman, a Mexican, has not had a quiet word with tonight's referee about the implications of being panicked into a hasty stoppage when his compatriot starts to bleed.

However, tonight's contest will not. I believe, be decided by skulduggery or conspiracy. Zaragoza is a fighter of genuine and undisputed quality, who has never once boxed in a title fight in his homefund but has still managed to win 12 and draw three of his 19 world title fights in places as scattered as Korea, Italy, America, Japan and France. That takes class and courage, not luck, and McCullough is right to accord the battle-scarred veteran such deep respect.
McCullough has built his ca-

reer (20 fights, 20 wins) on relentless aggression and a punch rate which would have made Joe Frazier, himself a protégé of McCullough's trainer, Eddie Futch, seem workshy. The fiery Irishman is likely to be too young and fresh for the veteran, particularly now that he is freed from the struggle of making the bantamweight limit of 118lbs at which, until the first bell sounds tonight, he still holds the WBC championship. Wavne is tough early and he's tough late. says assistant trainer Thel Torrence in a vivid description of his man's style of pressure-fighting.

Even great champions - and Zaragoza surely deserves that description - get old sometime, and tonight should be his turn. "It's the passing of the baton," says McCullough's man-ager, Mat Tinley. "This is a farewell party for Zaragoza."

Nice scenario, but has anyone

Thomas' chance to erase all doubts

Arwel Thomas is ready to take brings out the best in our threethe biggest opportunity of his career against the United States at Cardiff Arms Park today and make Wales' famous

outside-half jersey his own. But, having stolen the position ahead of his rivals. Jonathan Davies and Neil Jenkins, for this season's Five Nations' Championship, Swansea's exciting young playmaker intends to leave them trailing.

There are huge pressures attached to this job," the 22-yearold admitted. "You cannot afford to make it a burden though, because nothing will work." Thomas, whose six previous

caps were scattered throughout Wales' 12 internationals last year, added: "This time, I realvintend holding on to my place. Physically, I am a little bit bigger and I've certainly gained some extra pace, but the most important thing is experience and the belief that I can now han-

dle being the Welsh fly-half."
The Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, clearly thinks so as well. "No matter how frustrating Arwel can be, when he plays, he quarter line." Bowring said. Bowring's latest team selection probably will not be his de-

finitive version for the Five Nations opener against Scotland in Edinburgh on Saturday week. Jonathan Humphreys, the suspended skipper, is expected to return after sitting out the US match, while fit-again flanker Dale McIntosh could also challenge if a new-look back row combination of Steve Williams, Scott Quinnell and Colin

Charvis does not function. CHIEVES GOOS BOT FUBCLION.

WALES, I Thomas (Cardiff): I Beans (Lanels). A Batesian (Richmond), S Gibbs (Swersez, capt). G Thomas (Endgend): A Thomas (Swerses), R Howey (Cardiff): C Loader (Swerses), B (Jeiklins (Swerses), D Young (Cardiff), G Liewellyn (Harricguns), M Rowley (Portypedd), S Williams (Neath), S Quinnell (Richmond), C Charris (Swerses), Replacements: J Davies (Cardiff), P John (Portypodd), C Quinnell (Richmond), G Jones (Cardiff), L Musico (Cardiff), B Williams (Neath).

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Bath so dangerous in a crisis

der of the day at The Stoop this afternoon. Both Harlequins and Bath will be seeing the last of their expensive rugby league imports - Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson and the Paul brothers. Henry and Robbie - return to the land of the six-tackle on Monday morning and just to make it really interesting, the losing side can also wave goodbye to their chances of winning

the Courage title. Only two of the quartet will be on view in the all-ticket showdown in South-west London; Connolly's knee injury and Henry Paul's difficulties in adjusting to the 15-man game rule them out. Robbie Paul partners Will Carling in the Quins midfield while Robinson, a unique performer unconstrained by the disciplines of either code, plays on the left wing for the champions.

Dick Best, the Quins coach.

waxed lyrical yesterday about the impact of the league specialists on both clubs. "They have performed magnificently in an unfamiliar environment. They were thrown in at the deep end of the union game and if the WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Fond farewells will be the orof rugby union for the league imports

had sent union players to league, they would have strug-signing of the Argentinian lock, gled for six months," he said. "I hope to see both Robbie and Gary in Quins colours again at the earliest opportunity. Likewise, the Bath manage-

Most of the use will be non-rug-

by: our proximity to Heathrow

and the scarcity of suitable

venues in South-west London

make us a viable alternative for

companies bosting conferences

and product launches. I only

wish the full range of facilities

had been available from the start

of the season, because it's a

On the other side of the

pitch, the Quins shop leads the

way in rugby merchandising.
"The famous Quins shirt is the

massive asset."

ment have spent much of the last five months extolling the virtues of their recruits. But the fact remains that both Paul brothers have struggled to secure a firstteam place while Robinson, always capable of transforming a convincing victory into an outright massacre, has looked more vulnerable in tight encounters. Of the foursome, Connolly has made the most comfortable transition and Quins will miss his dynamic attacking qualities this afternoon.

Just as they did before Christmas when, having established a 17-3 interval lead at the Rocтеation Ground, they disappeared without trace in the second half and allowed Bath to kickstart their League campaign after misfires against Leicester.

opposite had happened and we Wasps and Northampton. Bath, German Llanes, on a two-year deal worth £175,000, have never lost to Wasps in a league match and at the end of a week that saw the departure of their coach, Brian Ashton, after a prolonged internal dispute, they have no intention of taking an-

other body blow. Whenever we are threatened with a playing or personnel crisis, our response is to go out and win well," their captain, Phil de Glanville, said.

It is now becoming obvious that the most successful leagueunion crossover signing was made by joint leaders Wasps when they enticed the former All Black winger Va'aiga Tuigamala to north London. Rather like Jonathan Davies, Scott Gibbs, Allan Bateman and the Quinnell brothers, Tuigamala is an instinctive union player who has benefited hugely from the pro-fessional regime he discovered in league. It is little wonder that

Wigan to retain his services for the rest of the campaign. "We are very hopeful of reaching a financial arrangement that will enable Inga to help our bid for the double." Geoff Huckstep. their chief executive, confirmed. Wasps, whose match at Bris-

tol was in serious doubt yesterday because of the frozen conditions at the Memorial Ground, named Tuigamala in a side unchanged from the one defeated by Quins last weekend Title favourites Leicester have

bola 30 months ago. decided against blooding their Springbok outside-half, Joel Stransky, against Northampton at Franklins Gardens. Icy conditions played havoc with the Tigers' preparations this week and Bob Dwyer, their coach, opted to play safe by sticking with

Rob Lilev. There was more positive news for another Springbok yesterday; Steve Atherton, the experienced second row from Natal, agreed a 30-month deal with Second Division Richmond. As the holder of a British passport - he was born in Hampshire - the 31year-old will not count as an overseas player.

Akinwande between Welch and the élite

Not so long ago the prospect of Henry Akinwande fighting Scott Welch would hardly have been a compelling attraction at the end of Brighton pier. Despite his fine technical ability. Akinwande was seen as dull and unfashionable while Welch was remembered mainly for being battered to a five-round defeat by the ponderous James Oye-

Now Welch stands just one major victory away from hecoming a white world heavyweight champion, attaining membership of an exclusive club and a guaranteed entry to the ranks of the big-time.

Welch would suddenly be known in America fight circles if he overcomes the 6ft 7in Akinwande in the all-British showdown for the World Boxing Organisation title at the Nashville Arena today.

A Welch win would hardly likely to be a triumph for science. His strategy will be to get past Akinwande's telescopic arms and rough him up inside. tactics that are likely to give the referee a busy night.

Welch believes he is a genuine contender for a world crown, and his association with the trainer Jim McDonnell has enhanced his stamina and technique. At a pre-fight press confer-

ence Welch managed to wind up Akinwande to the extent that the pair had to be pulled apart. The Florida-based, London-

born Akinwande will be making the second defence of the title he won by knocking out Jeremy Williams in June. He then dismantled the Russian Alexander Zolkin in November.

Akinwande is the official leading contender to meet the winner of next month's Lennox Lewis-Oliver McCall World Boxing Council title clash with-

A cash row has flared between rival promoters, Dan Duva and Don King, regarding that fight. King is demanding a letter of credit guaranteeing Mc-Call's purse of \$3m (£1.8m) plus training expenses of \$200,000.

TODAY

Football

Matthes not on pools coupons: 3.0 unless stated: subject to pitch hispections

PA CARLSBERG VASE Fourth round: Ariesey v
Herne Bay: Barking v Woodbindge: Badlingon Termers v Duriston FB; Bernerton Heath Harlegans
v Collier Row & Romford: Concord Ranges v White
stable; Gustorrugh v Toer Iare; Husbrill v Spaliing: Teday Walter v Durhern (1.3.0); Whithy v
Narrheich, Postponed (layering read Saunday);
Southerd Mannor Wisbecht Theorham v Twerson;
Reading Toern v Banstead; Historn v Mortwood;
Mangotsled v Teurfort, Mossley v Cogenhoe; Statiford v North Fermor.

MYARMALL CONFERENCE: Barb v Monacambe;
Bromsgroe v Stellydrage; Gereshead v Tedrod:
Hopes v Stellydrage; Gereshead v Tedrod:
Hopes v Stellydrage; Hednisofod v Modermisses;
Medicalssied v Wolling, Nortwich v Heaseing Sough
y Famborough, Postponech Dover v Southport;
Bishirian v Haltas, Westing v Altricham. Football

Parmiorcugh. Postporoed: Dover v Southport; Rushider v Hairfat. Welling v Annoham.

KS LEASUE Premier Division: Chartsey v Purfect: Dagenium & Redundge v Boerham Wood: Duwich Hamiet v Enicite Grays v Southers; Hender v Parmer v Hamos v Bishop v Stantes; Hender v Parmer Hunder v Sutton Utit. Kingstonland v Hamos Bornog: St Albears v Bishop v Stanten; Hamos Bornog: St Albears v Bishop v Stanten; Part Division: Altington Town: Salemany, Adesthot V Carshatton v Aylesburg: Dedict City v Heyandge. First Division: Abright Town: Salemany, Adesthot v Christian; Berton Rovers v Bognor Reges Basingstole v Myreledig Bertharmsted v Towng & Minchart Coyolon v Teams; Hampton v Leyon Pennant; Madenhead v Molessy; Marlow v Wolsengham; Walton & Heiser v Marloys, Marlow v Wolsengham; Walton & Heiser v Hampton; Morthing v Carry, Sacond Division: Christians of the Saleman v Librardge, Worthing v Lambersed v Edgward; Metropotan Poince v Bertinot; Horsham V Hampton; Third Division: Accept Planting v Hambur Hampton; Westboom v Brainting.

Levelt East Thumotiv v Capton: Packered Hambur Hampton; Hamber V Westboom v Doroch; Tarkey v Amps-bury, Ting v Camberley; Westboom v Brainting.

LINEDRED LEAGUE Premier Division: Accemig v Harlow: Hornchitet v v Harlow: Hornow: Hornchitet v Brainbert v Horder v Horder v Horder v Horder v Horder v Horder v Harlow v Marrier; Bardon v Harlow v Brainbert v Harlow v Bardon v Harlow v Brainbert v Harlow v Harlow

Beddiod Park Average wursen.

Beddiod Park Average von Pestponeet Lincoln Urd v Leigh Riel.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division. Ashford v Arbertone, Chelmeford v Halesowen Town; Chelmeford v Boldock Couviey v Gloucester.

Dorchaster v Stongbourne; Hastings v King's Lynn; Dorchaster v Stongbourne; Hastings v King's Lynn; Nurserton v Merthy Tydit Wouzester v Cembridge Newport AFC, Salebury v Schlay Town, Addissol Newport AFC, Salebury v Schlay Town, Addissol Divisione Corby v Tarmouth; Dubley v Bedmonth; Gentham v Moor Green; Beston v Scallock; Pagel Rangers v Bestham; Rothwell v Surom Coeffield; Shopherd v Biston; Solly v Rauntis; Shouthridge v Hondday Town; vS Rugby v Racing Warwick.

Soethern Division: Buckingham Town v Yere; Cinderford v Fisher Athletic: Coencesser v Clive-cion; Reet v Enth & Behedere: Forest Green v Hawsin: Newport tow v St Leonards Stameroth; Troubritige v Farehem; Waterlooville v Ton-bridge: Weston-super-Water v Bashley; Wey-mouth v Margate: Witney v Dartford. INICIAN V MATGALE: WITHEY V LIGHTOND.
INTERLINK EDPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE:
Boldmere St. Michaels V Browner, Bridghorth V
Kryporstey, Chaesetown v Millennall: Halesowen Harners: Paulosi: Oldbury v Shrimal: Petsal V Ballensal; Stapenhill v Shrinderd; West Midlands
Potica v Rocester.

Protos v Rocaster.
WINSTOWNEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions:
TOCKENIT v Themesmead (2,15): Deal v
Chathern: Folkestone Invacta v City Wanderes;
Hythe v Facestham; Shoppey Wooken't Sade
Green v Connthean; Tunbridge Welke v Beckenham. Green v Committen; Turbridge Wells v Beckenham.
UNIUET SUISSEX COURTY LEAGUE First Bidvelone
Hessochs v Setsey; Caserood v Southwell; Pagtern
v Three Bridges; Whitetsevik v Langley; Wick v
Burges at His: Eastbourner Town v Newfarven.
UHLSFORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier
Division: Bourne v Boston Town: Destonough v
Northampton Spencer: Muriters Backdotine v
Whoston; Newport Pagneti v Stadbid; Pattor v Ford
Sporm; Stewarts & Lloyde Corby v St. Nects. Sporte, Statedrus & Libyde Corby v St. Neots, SCREWIND OFFICET LEAGUE Premier Divisions Endport v Formeton: Chopenham v Bassal Manor Farm; Cherd v Badeford; Elmore v Badegwaler; Pauliton v Caine; Westbury v Badewaler, Pauliton v Coluntes EAST LEAGUE Premier Division; Amold v Porteiract; Denaby v Ashfold; Gasshoughton v Malthy Hallam v Belber; Harfield Man v Selby; Luersedge v Bings; Ossett Town v Ossett Alboric Pickering v Amithiope; Thackley v Straffield.

Shefield.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE, First Division:
Bactrood Rovers v Circheroe; Burscough v Eastwood Harrie; Deven v Ressendas; Holier Old Boys
v Gossag, Mene Road v Chedderoon; Sulfard v Parinit; Turfard v Amenton Collienes; Krisgiove v Vauhell GN; Prescot v St Helens, Challenge Cup
second round: Booth v Newcastle Town.
Evidence undersery LEAGUE? Tothon v Persentance. second round: BODUP v nemocater (own.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE Totton v Downton;
Acrosinctures v Gospor: Bournemouth FC v East.
Comes: Brockenhurs v Whitchurch: Christianth v Porsmouth RN; Cowes Sports v Ryde; Eastlegh v Andover; Romsey v Parentield. v Andower, Romsev v Penersyea, JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Division: Hardway v Hadwegh: Namich & Parkeston v Gor-leston; Lowestert v Diss; Newmarket v Sudbury Town; Sohamn v Warbors; Stowmarket v March: Sudbury Wanderers v Fakenhom; Wardon v Fa-

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE.
First Division: Bilangham Synthonia v Morpath;
Chester-le-Street v West Aucklain; Crook v Easington: First Newscado v Whadham; Seeham Rod
Star v South Shelds.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Coxe
Rangers v Lossiemauth: Deveronale v Romers, Fort.
Wilsom v Norm County; Fraserburgh v Cachnecution: Hunty v Wick Academy; Nesth v Eign;
Peterhead v Fornes Mechanics.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bargor City v Corney (2.301; Barry v Ton Perme (2.30); Carmarthen v Cam-bran: Cemase Bay v Conna's Quey; Ebbe Valle k Rhy! Holywell v Porthmadog Weshpool v Fart. Postspoaed; Caorises v Atrasystycto Postsphaed: Caeraws v Aberlystwych:
SMERNOFF RRSH LEAGLE Provider DMision: Ards
Portadown: Chfornde v Colerance: Glenavon v
Glentorar; Linteid v Crusadors, Rinst DMelon: Balyclane: Omagh v Bangor.
MARP LAGER CUP First round: Cobh Ramblers.
Valigo Roses (7.15): Deny Cay v Curnin (7.30);
Dubin (Inherstry v Parkvilla (2.0) (26 Santty Avenuc); Hone Farm Exerton v Glennor Debut
(7.30); Longford v St. Francis (7.30); Linherstry
College Dubin v Bray Wanderera (3.15).

RUISDY LOAGENS

SILK OUT CHALLENGE CUP First round: Mayfeel v Eccies (2.0); Modignen v Dumam time (2.0);
Uultum v Ideal ABI (2.0); Overdien v Hensingham
12.0): Sandeworth v Elmobrough (2.30); Wagan
13. Patrick's v Hatton Summs Cross (3.0) (af Central Park, Weigan). First resund reglay; Cleyton v
Hormanion (2.0). Second round: BRK v Egemont
(2.0): Durdey Hell v Devestury Moor (2.30); Hall
Dockers v Eastmoor (2.0); Leads Unwesty v They
in Hearth (2.0): Loak Lane v Heworth (2.0); Milford v East Leads (2.0); Saddal v Beerdey (2.0);
Sarbaugh v Laeth Meners (2.0); Wainey Certral v
Millem (2.0); West Hall v Haydrock (2.0); Woolston v Keighley Albon (2.0). Rugby Union

(COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPHONSHIP National League Ones Bristol v Wespo (3.0): Hardcome Veson (3.0): Hordman League Ones Bristol v Wespo (3.0): Hardcome Veson (3.0): Hordmanppon v Lecester (2.15): West Hardcood v Ornel (3.0). Postponed: Sale v Saracers; National League Tures: Chipn v Repron (3.0): Fyide v Lydney; Ledypool St Heldens v Leets; London Wesh v Hasart (2.15): Moriey v Wastal (3.0): Othey v Hardgine (2.15): Moriey v Wastal (3.0): Othey v Hardgine (2.15): Postponed: Reading v Eveter Rossyn Park v Wharledsie, National League Four Morthe, Herricord v Lethield; Sheffleid v Hendal (2.30): Stoke-on-Treity v Manchester; Stouthvidge v Sandak Winnington Park v Preston Grasshoppers. Postponed: Nunseaton v Wordcotter, Aspatina v Birmington-Postponed: Aspatina v Herricord Crastina Park v Weston's Marc Postponed: Harledsie V Herricord V Weston's Challesham v Herley, Worthe Pyrnouch v Newbury, Postponed: Walstam v Mert Pylicz; Teberd v Barking.

SOOTISM TERMENTS CHAMPIONSHIP Premier League First Divisions: Currie v Jed-Fornst (2.0); Metrose v Borcusjimus (2.0); Saring County v Hends in Pt (2.0); Westorman v Hends (2.0); Premier League Second Divisions v Hends (2.0); Person League Second Divisions Dunice (4.5); Metrose v Begar (2.0); Everand V League Metrose (4.5); Metrose (4.5); Second (4.5); Metrose v Begar (2.0); Person Lodge (2.0); Metrose (4.6); Metrose (4.6);

CLUB MATCH: Cascelled: Richmond v Cardiff.

Hockey

WORLD CITIES INDOOR CHAMPIONSKIP Pool At Carberra, Gasgow, Johannesburg, New York. Pool B: Birmingreim, Gopenhagon, Madhol, Vienna 19am to 8pmi lat Kelvin Hall, Glacgow). ISBM to Spini far Anna rain, Giscardi.
ENGLISM RIDOOR CLUB CHAMPHONSHIP Pro-liminary round (Pevrilavell, Morcaster): Car-nock, Firibrands. Doncaster, Hartome, Hul, York CS, Trobrass 111.30-7.00, (East Gineteed): Bluehens, East Grosteed, Relating, Isca, St Al-bans, Old Lougmontons 111.30-7.00.
NASTRO AZZURRO South Promier: Old Whit-ghtans v Spencer.

Basketball

fce hockey

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Extilo Lon-don Towers (7:30); Laccester Riders v Shetheit Sharks (7:30); Manchester Ganis v Busin's Wo-thing Bears (7:30); Peugeot Business Briminghom v Chester Jets (7:30); Hernel & Wattord Royals v Converse Crystal Palace (7:30); Thernes Valley

SUPERLEAGUE: Ay Soutish Eagles v Cardill Dev (s. (6.0); Nottingham Portiners v Bracknell Bees (7.0); Beengstoke Bison v Newcastle Cobras (6.30). PREMIER LEAGUE: Slough Jets v Medway Bears (6.30); Solihuli Blaze v Guidford Flames (5.30); Swindon leatords v Peterborough Prates (6.30); Tellard Tigers v Kangston Hawles (7.30)

Other sports DARTS: Embassy World Championship (Fr Green, Surrey).

TOMORROW Football

HARP LASER CUP First round: Con. City v Gal-vary (2.0); Garda v Drugheda (2.0) fat West-rhartstown, Consilo, Dublint; Kilkerny v Bohsmans (2.15); Shantrock, Rouers v Limenck (3.15); Valenese Shankul • Rockmount (2.0) (at Strac-brok, Blackrock, Dublint; Waysde Cette v Finn Horrs (2.0) (at Carlies Ground, Bray); Whitshell Rangers v Dundalk (2.0) (at Paddy Mahoriey Path, Dublin amport). Rugby League

FREENOLY MATCHES: Barrow v Carlese (3.0): Hut v Oldham (3.0): Leigh v Swirton (3.0); St Hotens v Wigan (3.0). Postponed: Featherstone v Hun-Rugby Union WELSH NATIONAL LEASUE First Divise EDON Vale v Clanell (2.30).

ENGLISH INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Pro Imprery round (Pentilswell, Worcester): 10.0 liminary round (Pentiswell, Word 3.0: (East Grinstead): 10.0-3.0.

BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Sneffled Sharks v Hernal & Wanford Royals (5.30); Playboy TV Leopards v Newcassie Eagles (7.0). ice hockey

Basketbali

SUPERLEAGUE: Newcastle Cobras v Avr Scottish Eagles (6.30); Manchester Storm v Besingstoke Bison (6.0); Bracknet Bees v Sheffeld Steelers (6.0). PERMITER LEAGUE: Guidford Flames v Totlord Tigurs Penniger Country Country or Parents or Ingers (5.01; Kingstein Hawits or Patterborough Printer (5.45; Medwey Bears v Swindon IceLords (5.15); Southull Blaze v Stough Jets, 17.0). NORTHERD PREMIER LEASUE: Backtoum Hawks v Parenty Pirates (6.0); Durnfries Vikings v Whiteley Warmors (5.15); Murrayfield Poyals v Fife Phy-res (6.30).

Other sports TABLE TENNES: English Open (kettenng). DARTS: Embessy World Championship (Finnicy

Wigan face Saints and vote on future

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

This is, whichever way you look at it, a big weekend for Wigan, with moves towards deciding their future today followed tomorrow by the sort of match

that has enlivened their past. A shareholders' meeting at Central Park this afternoon will vote on three ground options. They are: selling their present stadium to the Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan, who will develop it for joint use; building a new ground in Wigan; or moving in with Bolton Wanderers at their new

stadium in Horwich. Wigan's directors, who hold the majority of the shares, say they will decide on their course of action after today's votes are counted.

Calculating the outcome of the Norweb Winter Challenge will be more straightforward. Wigan go into the delayed second leg at St Helens tomorrow with a 10-point lead carried over from Boxing Day.

That will not look an Monday.

insurmountable handicap to Saints on their own ground and with four important players hack in their side after missing the first match.

Wigan, on the other hand, field a team similar to the one that overcame the absence of a number of first-team regulars at Central Park.

The one returnee is Simon Haughton, who has recovered from a groin operation. He replaces Steve Holgate in the starting line-up, Holgate taking a place on the bench alongside Nigel Wright, who missed the first leg with flu.

In another pre-season workout, Featherstone fans will get their first look at the three new signings from Leeds - Lee Maher, Paddy Handley and Paul Gleadhill - against Hunslet today.

Hull KR, who beat Hunslet to promotion from the Second Division last season, have been served with a winding-up order by the Inland Revenue, which is claiming almost £250,000 in unpaid tax. The club is to apply for an administration order on

Q UOTES OF THE WEEK

club as far as I can and that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if I resigned. Kevin Keegan, Newcastle United manager.

i feel I have taken the

He will never be forgotten. I am stunned. Terry McDermott, caretaker manager at Newcastle.

People are saying it's like the Queen dying. I think it's worse. John Regan, secretary of the Independent Newcastle United Supporters' Club.

📕 It has all happened rather quickly but the club has to go on. Kevin would want that. Sir John Hall, Newcastle's chairman.

If I had any doubts about whether I'd made the right decision they were banished after this. Liam Botham, who decided on a rugby career in-stead of cricket, after his successful debut for West Hartlepool.

I misjudged it and nearly wore it in the gob. Emi-Iv Drumm who caught England captain Mike Atherton in a friendly match in Auckland.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN: Chanda Rubin made her breakthrough in Melboume last year. John Roberts tracks her comeback

Marathon woman makes return to Grand Slam stage

Devotees will be aware that the venue of next week's Australian Open, Flinders Park, has been renamed Melbourne Park, and that if Chanda Rubin is allowed to park she is not readily removed.

Having built a reputation as the marathon woman of tennis, the petite American had the misfortune to miss the last three Grand Slam tournaments. the French, Wimbledon and United States championships, because of injury.

The problem appears to have been cured by surgery to remove the hook of the hamate bone from Rubin's right hand, and the delightful 20-year-old is preparing to outstay her oppo-

nents, though not her welcome.

Australia is her favourite place to visit, not only for the usual reasons ("its beauty and friendly people") but also be-cause her debut in Melbourne a year ago coincided with her first Grand Slam title as a senior player. albeit the women's doubles, with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

It was the first tournament the pair had played together, and the wonder of their triumph was that the Spaniard could bear the sight of her partner after what occurred in the singles quarter-finals.

The organisers might have considered asking Rubin and Sanchez Vicario if they were willing to take out a mortgage on the court. Their singles duel, as enthralling as it was lengthy, ate into the night for three hours and 33 minutes – the concluding set taking two hours and 22 minutes – until Sanchez Vicario, the great retriever, was able to retrieve no more. Rubin, the No 13 seed, hit a

winning volley on her sixth match point to defeat the thirdseeded Sanchez Vicario, 6-4, 2-6, 16-14, and advance to her first Grand Slam semi-final and to No 10 in the world rankings. While digesting that, Rubin was informed that she had won the longest women's match ever played at the Australian Open.

Big deal. Rubin's second round victory at Wimbledon in tricia Hy-Boulais, 7-6, 6-7, 17-15, stands as the longest women's singles match in Grand Slam history in terms of time (three hours and 45 minutes), the total number of games (58), and the number of games in a set (32). "In the last set I knew I still wanted to win. but I couldn't remember why." Rubin said. She added, "You push yourself and it allows you

to find out where your limits are, if there are limits.

Three weeks prior to that, Rubin had lured the Czech Jana Novoma into a classic capitulation in the third round of the French Open by fighting off nine match points and a third set deficit of 0-5, 0-40.

Last January, in addition to sharing the Australian Open doubles prize with Sanchez Vicario, Rubin had the distinction of being the only player to take a set off Monica Seles during the singles championship. But that was scant consolation for failing to secure a place in the final.

Although Rubin had not played Seles before, her nimness troubled the top seed sufficiently for her to take the opening set of the semi-final on a tie-break (7-2), and to recov-

You push yourself and it allows you to find out where your limits are, if there are limits'

er from a severe letdown in the second set (1-6) to gain the initiative in the third.

Rubin led 4-1, had points to break for 5-1, and served for the match at 5-3. At 30-15, Rubin went for an ace and missed. She also went for an ace on the sec-ond serve. The gamble failed. Rubin salvaged only two more points as Seles won 6-7, 6-1, 7-5.

Overcoming her disappointment, Rubin continued to prosper. In March she qualified for the Million Dollar Club in prize-money after reaching the quarter-finals at Indian Wells, California, where she won the doubles with Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, and raised her world ranking to No 6 by reaching the singles final at the Lipton Championships in Florida.

Rubin's fifth Tour final ended in defeat - as did the previous four, at Phoenix, Chicago. Los Angeles and Eastbourne but on this occasion the adversary was Steffi Graf, who has a knack of confining their contests to a sprint distance.

"For some reason, Chanda hasn't played the best against me," said Graf, who has won their four matches in straight

mulating a total of only 14 games. "Steffi and Monica are both great players," Rubin said, "but Steffi's game definitely presents more problems for me.

One reason is that Rubin makes more mistakes when play-ing Graf. In losing the Lipton fi-nal, 6-1, 6-3, Rubin committed 26 unforced errors, five of them double-faults - although it transpired that her right hand had been damaged during the course of the tournament.

Rubin was able to make only one further appearance between April and November, the injury forcing her to retire after one set of a tournament in June. She underwent surgery in September, and reached the quarter-finals of the second event of her comeback, in Philadelphia, defeating the eighth-ranked Iva Majoli, of

While Rubin inevitably experienced moments of frustration during the lengthy lay-off, her rehabilitation was generally hassle-free, in accord with the gradual nature of her progress rom the junior ranks.

With Rubin, there is not a hint of parental pressure to do anything other than enjoy her career. Her father Edward is a district judge in Lafayette, Louisiana, her mother Bernadette is a retired teacher.

Chanda, along with her older sister, La Shon, and younger brother, Edward, grew up with a tennis court and a swimming pool at home. "We never had a need for her to support us," her mother says. "There was no pressure for us to rush her." Nor is over-emphasis placed

on the family's African-American roots. "We don't want to stand out from everybody else," Bernadette says. "We just want to be like everyone else, and we are, if you look past our colour."

The tennis court was Bernadette's idea. "When our house was built, I asked my husband to build a tennis court because I wanted to learn to play. He said, 'OK, I'll do that for you. But since I already know how to swim. I'm going to build a pool first'."

It could be said that fear played a part in Chanda's grav- her mother, "I wanna go pro." itation to tennis as a five-year- and received a wry smile in reold, but not in the usual sense. "I had fallen asleep in my house, and when I woke up, no one was around and I got kind of scared," she recalls. "Then it came to me. They are probably outside on the tennis court.' It was like. Wow, what a relief. sets, with the American accu- I remember walking out on

the court and thinking it was a good place. Everyone was having a good time and I just wanted to be out there."

In comparison to some of her American predecessors, notably Tracy Austin, Andrea Jaeger and Jennifer Capriati, the gestation of Rubin's career was hype-free, even though she was ranked No 1 nationally at 12-and-under at the age of 11 and, at 12, was the top female

That was when she first told sponse. "I think she had heard that phrase from a couple of the high school boys, who were talking about football and basketball," Bernadette says. "We really didn't think she would stick to that idea. But sure enough, that's what she wanted to do."

Rubin was 15 when she did

turn professional, at the 1991 respect for her work in the lo-US Open. "I knew that I was going to turn pro before going to college because it would have been just too long for me to wait," she says.

Although a finalist at her second tournament, in Phoenix, she nevertheless continued with her high school education before travelling on the tour full time. Indeed, she elected to miss the 1993 French Open in US player aged 14-and-under. order to march with her graduating class at the Episcopal School of Acadiana.

By then Rubin's all-court style had established her as a dangerous competitor, one capable of graduating from the Wimbledon junior singles title to the US Open fourth round in 1992.

Endeavouring to maintain a healthy balance between professional tennis and life in general. Rubin has earned as much Flinders Park, as the National

cal and state community - conducting clinics, involving herself with a children's museum, the American Heart Association, Special Olympics causes and wheelchair tennis - as she has been shown for her performances on the court.

In 1995, she received the WTA Tour's Most Improved Player Award, and was named the USTA's female Athlete of the Year and became the first tennis player to be selected as the US Olympic Committee's was a French general who be-Athlete of the Month. In recognition of this, her home town of Lafayette declared 12 September, 1995, "Chanda Rubin Day".

The ITF News observed that "Chanda is making a habit of claiming her own day at the Grand Slam championships". She certainly did that at

his meeting with the world

Australia and we will see how

it goes out there. It's not a

Grand Slam final, so I want to

"He plays very well in

nine years until the Victoria parliament had the name changed to Melbourne Park on the day after last year's tournament, in order to accentuate the city. Matthew Flinders probably would have approved. After

Tennis Centre was known for

all, Flinders was the English navigator who insisted on calling the continent Australia after it had been named New Holland by the Dutch and New South Wales by Captain Cook.

What's in a name? Lafayette came a hero of the American cause against the British. And Chanda? A reporter telephoned the family and asked where the name came from and if it was of African origin. "We found that very amusing." Bernadette says. "Chanda is an American Indian name, and I

got it out of a baby book."

final last January, beat the

er semi-final. A fractured bone in Kafelnikov's right hand has forced the Russian to pull out of the Open. The exhibition event has been badly affected by injuries, forcing the organisers to call in several replacements at short

German on Thursday in the oth-

Kafelnikov ruled out as injuries mount up

DERRICK WHITE

The world No 4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, yesterday joined a growing casualty list of top seeds as injury ravaged the field before the start of the Australian Open. Kafelnikov was forced to pull

out with a broken hand, while doubts surround the fitness of his fellow seeds, Jim Courier and Thomas Enqvist. Britain's No 1 Tim Henman, in tremendous form, will face

home hero Mark Philippoussis in the opening round. Greg Rusedski must overcome the 14th seed Felix Mantilla of The withdrawal of Kafelnikov removed a potential threat to the top-seeded world No 1 Pete

Sampras, who was paired against a qualifier in yesterday's first-round draw. The defending champion Boris Becker was. handed a tougher assignment against the improving young Spaniard Carlos Moya, who is ranked 28 in the world. Becker, the sixth seed, lost in three sets against Moya at last

year's Paris Open, their only previous meeting. "Carlos is not a typical Spanish clay court player because he is able to play on quicker surfaces, which is going to make it more dangerous," Becker said. In the women's draw, the

world No 1, top seed and over-whelming favourite, Steffi Graf, will play Janette Husarova of Slovakia in the first round. The Swiss teenager Martina Hingis, seeded fourth and regarded as the biggest threat to stop the German winning her fifth Australian Open, is in the opposite half of the draw, clearing the way for a possible final meeting.

Sampras and Becker were also kept apart in the draw and can only meet in the final on 26 January. If Sampras beats the qualifier and the next two matches go his way, as expected, his first seeded opponent should be the No 16, Alberto Berasategui of Spain, in the fourth round.

The former world No 1 Courier, the Australian Open champion in 1992 and 1993 and seeded No 11 this year, has a hamstring strain. The seventh seed Enqvist was struck down on Thursday with a badly infected blister on his right hand, and is also doubtful for the tournament. The Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, America's Todd Martin and the 1993 Wimbledon finalist, Jana Novotna of the

Czech Republic, have already been forced out through injury. Mark Petchey, the 26-yearold Davis Cup player from Essex, beat Australia's Des Tyson 6-2, 6-3 in the second qualifying round. Now Petchey will meet another Australian, Lleyton Hewitt, in the third qualifying round and, if successful.

will qualify for the main even Andrew Richardson, the 22year-old Lincolnshire left-hander, joined Petchev in the third qualifying round when he defeated Mexico's Aleiandro Hernandez 6-3, 6-4, and will now meet Spain's Oscar Burrieza for a place in the first round. Sam Smith, the British No 1.

beat Daphne Van De Zande of Belgium 6-2, 6-7, 6-2 in the first round of the women's qualifying competition. Australian Open draw,

Sporting Digest, page 25



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Sampras squares up to Chang in final

No 2

Pete Sampras will be given a stern examination of his readiness for next week's Australian Open when he plays fellow American Michael Chang in the final of a warm-up exhibition

event today. Sampras, the top seed in the season's first Grand Slam in

LINGFIELD

Pedaltothemetal

SIS RACING CHARGE

12-50 Perfect Pal 1-25 Slip Jig 1-55 Come Too Mamma's 2.30 Our Eddie 3.00 Lity Jaques 3.30

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: Inside, except 51 (outside).
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle numbers best for 61.
It Left-hand, sharp course (Equitrack surface).
Course is south-east of town on 82003. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure 59. CAR PARK, Club 53; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Media Express (2.30), Run Lucy

BILINKERED FIRST TIME: Media Express (2.30), Run Lucy Run (3.00), Code Red (3.30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Sity Jig (1.25) won at Lingded on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Calchon (1.35) has been seed; 270 miles by C Fairhurst from Middleham, North Yorkshire: Wedding Muste (3.00) sent 270 miles by P Haslam from Middleham, North Yorkshire: Come Too Mamma's (1.55) sent 268 miles by J Berry from Coclorhum, Lancashire.

12.50 TYRONE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 5f

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DONOS4 ADROW (11) 15 bedger 59 5 S A Daby (5) 12

DEFRECT PAL Miss Cay Keleucay 6 9 5 S Sandras 4

600200 CLASSY CHIEF (78) 1 White 4 9 0 CRetter 13

30-0 DOUBLE MOREMENT (7) 6 Eastery 4 9 0 D Beggs 3

00 HAVILING BALLY (50 P Hedger 4 9 0 D Beggs 3

00 HAVE CAPTAIN (278) 0 Marray Smith 4 9 0 G Center 10

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0F4/202- SUPPERY RN (188) W GM Ticres 59 0 T Speak 5 8

0F4/202- SUPPERY RN (188) W GM Ticres 59 0 W Here 8

04534-6 SOMET KING (7) P Machel 4 9 0 ...

- 13 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Perfect Pel, 5-2 Warning Reaf, 8-1 Random Kindness, 10-1 Double Indominity, Turio, 12-1 Soviet King, 14-1 Adiov, 16-1 others

1.25 ARMAGH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 4f 44022-2 GENERAL HAVEN (7) (C) (SIF) T) Naugriton 4 10 UT Spraka 7

24365-0 HARLEQUEN WALK (4) (CD) R O'Subsen 68 6. . D Hontson 4 - 8 declared -BETTHIG: 5-2 General Havee, 11-4 Sip Mg, 7-2 Fether Dan, 5-1 Sestile Alley, 9-1 Harlegoin Wellt, 10-1 Rehelah, State Approval, 14-1 others

Chang, second-seeded in the Open. from winning his third Colonial Classic title in a row. Sampras, the world No 1, advanced without hitting a ball at Kooyong yesterday when the

world No 4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, was forced to withdraw because of a broken hand.

make sure I'm hitting the ball well and feeling fit and ready to go on Monday." Melbourne, which starts on "Michael is a true test to see Chang, who lost to Boris Monday, will try to prevent where I am at," Sampras said of Becker in the Australian Open

1.55 ANTRIM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 5f 560130 - SEREISE'S NEPHEW (29) (C) S Williams 9 0 S Senders 1 331650 - COME TOO MAMMA'S (58) (D) I Bory 8 11 P Fessey (5) 3 00021 - HEVER GOLF LOVER (12) (CD) 7 J Neugran 8 11 ... G Carba 2 351500 - CHI LOND I 4 35160-0 CALCHOU (7) (D) C Faithurs & 8

BETTING: 11-10 Rever Golf Lover, 3-1 Scretso's Nephew, 4-1 Come To 2.30 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 2f

3.00 DERRY FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 7f

- 5 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Lily Jaques, Windborn, 7-2 Run Lucy Run, 9-2 Mystery, 5-

3.30 FERMANAGH AMATEUR RIDERS HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2m

2 25234 HATTMAFEN (159) (C) MEX B Sorder 6 11 2 Miles L Sheen (7) 1
3 542552 STALLED (22) (CD) P Wolvyn 7 11 2 Miles L Sheen (7) 1
4 554615 ZUNO FLYER (12) (C) A Moore 5 10 12 Mers A Perrett 10
5 604560 ELA MAN HOWA (108) (C) A Bavey 6 10 11 Mers A Perrett 10
6 020230 SMEHO (430) S Dow 6 10 10 Mers A L Helichisson (7) 9
7 005-5 AL MARA (1804) (7) R O'Shimen 8 10 3 Lm Y L'Origination (7) 11
8 503430 CODE RED (15) W Marr 4 10 8. Miles S Newby-Moorat (7) 28
9 084250 PEDMJOWEMERA (173) P Mechel 5 10 6 Mer R Thomason 9
10 740000 LITTLE LUNE (152) P Buser 6 10 0 Mers I Mongam (7) 4
11 52/5/0-4 PERSIAN BID (4) Bosky 9 9 7 Mers S Bosley (2) 5 E
11 decisied BETTING: 7-2 Hettwelch, 5-1 Genet Alliance, 11-2 Stolled, 6-1 Zeno Flyer, 8-1 Pedalnothemoral, 10-1 Al Heat, 12-1 Issuesso, 14-1 offices

RACING RESULTS

MUSSELBURGH 12.40: 1. BEST OF ALL IM Motorey) 16-1: Shinerolla 2-1 if fav: 3. Falcon's Flame 4. 11 rag. 2-1 jt fav Lively Encounter (4th). 4, sht-hd. U Berry, Cockerham). Tote: £16.80; £4.51, £1.50, £1.00, 0F: £22.00.

£16.80; £4.51, £1.80, £1.00, UF; £22.00. CSF: £45.56, Tro: £24.40, 1.10: 1. HUTCEL LOCH (A S Smith) 9-1; 2, Maple Bay 12-1; 3, Nutrly Solera 5-1, 10 ran, 11-8 to Musc Peose (5th), Sht.-hd, 9, (# Woodhouse, York), Toter £8.10: £1.80, £2.30, £2.20, DF; £191.20, (SF; £100.58, Tro: £48.90, 1.45: 1. TRIENNEUM (A Dottin) 2-1 fav; 2. Tiotae 11-1; 3, Catton Lady 20-1, 12 ran, 4, 17., (P Montenth, Rossewell), Toter £2.80; £1.40, £1.60, £5.00, DF; £12.00, £64.40.

£64.40.
2.15: 1. MONYMAN (R Gammy) 8-11 fav.
2. Deviny 12-1: 3. Gone Ashore 66-1. 6
ran. 10. 6. (M Hammond, Middeham). Tote: £2:10: £1.20, £3.60. OF: £5.00. CSF:

2.45: 1 HIGHLAND PARK (A Dobbri 16-1: 2. Snow Board 11-4: 3. Supertop 8-4 fav. 8 ran. Nh. 1. (R Crags., Sedgefeld). Tota: £14.90: £2.40. £2.30. £1.10. DF: £20.60. CSF: £56.23. Treast £98.14. Tro; £24.30.

CSF: £56.23. Treast £98.14. Tro: £24.30. NR: Hobian.
3.15: 1. WAYUPHILL (8 Storey) 5-1; 2. Parlian 9-4 faz; 3. Val de Rama 8-1. 7 ran. 8, 9, 4C Parler, Locketbel. Tote: £5.00; £2.60. £1.90. DF: £10.60. CSF: £15.91.
3.45: 1. WAISKO & Metrose) 16-1; 2. Flyaway Blues 5-1; 3. Mr Christie 25-1. 15 ran. 100-30 faz Navaga. 2/s. 1. (R Atan. Comhd-on-Iweed), Tote: £54.00; £13.60, £2.90. £6.20. DF: £339.50. CSF: £95.97. Tricast: £1.996.49. Inc: £147.00. Place 6: £31.65. Place 8: £20.31. SOUTHWELL 12.05: 1. ANTA'S CONTESSA (T Sprake)

12.05: 1. AMTA'S CONTESSA (T Sprake)
8-1: 2. Thick As Thieves 5-1: 3. Dissentor
12: 1. 14 na., 11-4 for Boot Aristocrat (5th).
No. 27: 16 Palling, Cowtridge: Tota: 58-20.
£2.80. £1.90. £1.40. DF. £22.90. CSF:
£45.24. Tricast: £450.12. Tric: £82.20.
12.30: 1. ROYAL ACCLAIM (MASS R I Patman 10-1; 2. See God 10: 1. 3. Mr Spociator 3-1. 11 ran. 7-4 for Fresh Furt Daily (4th). No. 27: (R Dickin, Newent). Tota: £12.30: £4.60. £2.40. £2.00. DF: £22.90.
CSF: £100.18. Tricast: £346.97. Tric: £27.90. NR. Summer Ville,
12.55: 1. EDGE AHEAD (M A Forgerald)
12-1: 2. In The Van 9-2: 3. Meadow Hymn 6-1. 16 ran. 11-4 (av Side On (5th). 1, 17. Il Triomson Jones, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £23.30: £4.90. £2.10. £3.00. DF: £44.20.
CSF: £75.85. Inc. £99.30 (part won).

1.20: 1. UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA (MS C Williams) 6-1: 2. Raindeer Quest 6-4 fav. 3. Kinamartyra Girl 7-1. 12 ran. 4, IM Bielby, Grossbyl. Tote: 56.20; 51.80, 51.10, 54.40. DF: £5.30. CSF: £16.12. Treast: £65,97, Trip: £26,40

1.55: 1. El. NIDO (I. Chemock) 7-4 fev. 2. Tirmizi 11-2: 3. Shakibyr 9-2: 16 ras, 12. 8. (M. Camacho, Malton). Tota: £2, \$2. £1.40, £2.80, £2.40, DF: £10.10. CS7. £12,77, Teo; £23,70,

£12.77. Tno: £23.70.
2.25: 1 LADY SUK () Farring: 12-1; 2. Blue fugane 16-1; 3. Bluefing Greeneder 3-1. 10 ran. 5-2 fav Kipspinger (5dt). 3%. 1. (Miss. J. Craze, York). Totec £10.30; 53.60. £4.00. £1.20. DF: £67.90. CSF: £163.20. Tricast: £667.45.
2.55: 1. ALBAHA () Quirn): 2-5 fav; 2. Cfried 10-1; 3. Quilliver 13-2. 7 ran. ½. 19. IJ Banks. Newmarket). Totec £1.40; £1.10. £3.30. DF: £8.90. CSF: £6.04. Tno: £247.70 (Bart won).

3.25: 1. SENSE OF PRIORITY (Nex Greaves) 5-1: 2. Ettor Ledger 11-10 fav. 3. Sea Devil 9-1. 16 ran. ½, 8. ID Nicholls, Thirsk). Tota: £5.50: £2.00. £1.70, £2.40. DF: £5.30, CSF: £10.57. Tho:

3.55: 1. GULF SHAADI (S Drowne) 12-1; 2. Nordic Breeze 8-1; 3. Domino Riyer 2-1 fav. 12 ran. 24; ½. (E Anton, Longton), Tobe: £10.90; £6.70, £2.90, £1.10, DF: £17.00. CSF: £104.10. Tricast: £259.92. Tho: £107.10.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £23,409.76 car ned forward to Wolverhampson today).
Placepot: £282.00. Quadpot: £32.20.
Place 8: £183.91. Place 5: £58.27.

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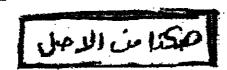
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Section 18 to Beetern

er er erdaye

nount up RRICK WHITE on old Not Vergeny Rafel.

Racing lost one of its classiest retired to stud. The eight-yearold, a Group winner on the Flat and the Champion Hurdler of 1995, has succumbed to the leg problems that have bedevilled the latter part of his career. Alderbrook's joints, and due to the continuing firm ground,

RICHARD EDMONDSON

"Due to wear and tear on training has become very difficult and the horse is showing elements of pain as a result of his past injuries." Kim Bailey, his Upper Lambourn trainer, said yesterday. "After consultation with the vets and his owner,

LEOPARDSTOWN

1.05: If forecast rain softens the ground, THE CARRIG RUA should take this. He won a 21/2 mile chase at Navan in a canter before finishing fifth to Danoli, beaten 14 lengths, on this course on Boxing Day. That race was over only 2m1f, however. and today's trip is far more his style. Richard Dunwoody takes over from Anthony Powell

Ernie Pick, we have decided to tually return their own prices. retire the horse so that he can have a full stud career."

Alderbrook's retirement removes a degree of interest from and most versatile protagonists the Champion Hurdle, as a re-yesterday when Alderbrook was match with Collier Bay, his Cheltenham conqueror last March, was to have been one of the centrepieces of the Festival. Collier Bay is now a 7-2 chance with the Tote for Cheltenham. with Large Action 7-1 and

Space Trucker a point longer. If there is any proof required that the Almighty looks down kindly on the big bookmakers, it comes at Leopardstown this afternoon. Racing of real substance is offered to punters in the shape of the fiendishly difficult Ladbroke Hurdle, for which the big combines will vir-

good winner at Thurles recently and can hold Rosin The Box, who appreciated the stamina test when winning over this trip at Navan.

2.05: Arthur Moore saddles three, but stable jockey Francis Woods is on WHALE OF A KNIGHT. The hint should be taken because this promising gelding looked unlucky here a fortnight ago. He was noted travelling comfortably until being

The old battle looks about as

Past catches up with Alderbrook

even as Tiananmen Square. An "industry starting price" will be returned on the Ladbroke because there will be an on-course bookmakers' strike at

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Family Way (Leopardstown 2.35) NB: The Carrig Rua (Leopardstown 1.05)

Leopardstown today and thus no official starting prices. Ireland's boys with the satchels are protesting over plans to allow the Co Dublin course's betting shop to take bets on the home meeting, a move they suggest will damage their turnover.

HYPERION'S

2.35: KAITAK, at around 33-1, is a

though from analysis of wagers struck in Britain's betting shops, a position the bookmakers have been striving for for many years. William Hill, Coral, Lagbrokes, Dennis, Stan James,

said yesterday. "Reporters from the Press Association and The Sporting Life, will return a price as they would on the course." Given the circumstances, it will take something approaching the water into wine phenomenon to make money. When Mike Dillon, Ladbrokes' main represen-

tative, suggested his company

should take over the race, it was

not with the intention of giving

ed by this tight track, and is well

Executive Design and Penny A Day.

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.50: This all-weather card should be

approached warily, particularly with the freeze-up making fitness a guess-

ing game for the vast majority of pun-

ters. THREESOCKS stayed on well

Southwell seller won by Sarasi last

week. This trip could suit this filly.

Stanley and the Tote will feed

prices in to SIS as business goes

Offices' Licensees Association,

A price will be generated his clients a remunerative start to the New Year.

Barnbrook Again won the inaugural running for Britain in 1987, but the visitors have not registered since. Success usually goes to a low-weighted home runner stepping up on all pre-vious form. Britain sends a force on." Tom Kelly, of the Betting of seven this time, three of them trained by Mary Reveley. who believes Penny A Day is the best of her trio.

Penny A Day defends an unbeaten record this season, as does Centaur Express. Andy Streeter, his trainer, has never been beaten in Ireland, but then he has never been there at all. Streeter was formerly a stable lad, which may seem a strange occupation for someone who has grown to the slam-dunking

2.20: ELITE HOPE, a course and

distance winner a week ago, won well

then. Despite today's contest being

2.50: DUKE VALENTINO could

reward each-way support at decent odds. He was well held by Super

High here on Wednesday, but the

first-named needed that run and this

furione shorter trip is much more

suited to his style of running.

tougher, she can go in again.

running just to give his 36 owners something to shout about. "We are dreaming about win-ning, but it is purely a dream," Streeter said of his former plater yesterday. "We just hope he can beat more than beat him." One borse who will almost

Staffordshire base he now sends

out a gelding who seems to be

certainly fall into the latter category is FAMILY WAY (nan 2.35). He made an encouraging reappearance at Fairyhouse and is on a low weight for a race which has not gone to a horse carrying more than 11st in the last six years. His connections are peerless as he is owned by J P McManus and trained by Arthur Moore, who has won the event five times previously.

ners on sand but today's opposition is so modest that his MOVE THE CLOUDS may repay an interest.

3.50: Provided CHATEAUHER-AULT handles this slower surface, he should follow up his Lingfield victory. Most of his rivals this afternoon have been competing over shorter dis-tances and may find this journey beyond their stamina. Skelton Sovereign looks the danger.

1.30: ROCK'N ROLL KID was a He races prominently, should be suitbadly impeded three fences out.

WOLVERHAMPTON 1.20 Enchantica (nb) 1.50 Threesocks 2.20 Elite Hope

2.50 Duke Valentino 3.20 Move The Clouds 3.50 Chateauherault GOING: Standard DRAW ADVANTAGE: Righ from 6f to 1m 4f.

STALLS: Stalls: 7f & 1m61 - outside; remainder - inside.

Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

Course is north of town on A43. Wolverhampton rall station 1m. ADMINSION

515; Tattersalls 56 (\$4 for OAP members of Diamond Club). CAR PARE: Prec.

SIS

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R Hollinshead — 49 winners from 473 runners gives a success ratio of 10.4% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £138.03; M Johnston — 44 winners, 183 runners, 24.4%, +£45.70; J Berry — 38 winners, 247 runners, 15.4%, -\$70.40; A Balley — 38 winners, 255 runners, 12.9%, -\$145.40.
■ LEADING JOCKETS: J Wenver — 55 winners, 263 rides, 20.9%, +£33.40; S Sanders — 38 winners, 276 rides, 12.7%, -552.7; L Dettori — 32 winners, 164 rides, 20.8%, -533.92; G Carter — 30 winners, 206 rides, 14.6%, -523.69.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Storm Wind (visored) (1.50), Hazel (visored) (3.20), Dane-hall Princes (3.50), State Of Gold (3.50), Billing (visored) (3.50).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Elite Hope (2.20) won at Wolverhampton on Saturday, Chastenaheranht (3.50) won at Lingfield on Theoday.
LONG-DISTAINCE EUNNERS: Hurght Times (1.20) & Mutahadetia (3.50) have been sent 162 miles by D Shaw from Ashington, West Sussex.

162 miles by D Shaw from Ashington, West Sussex. 1.20 JUPITER HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added to stakes

ı	1	051330-	WALK THE BEAT (64) (C)(D) (County Life Partnership) M Meade 7 10 0D	Sweeney (5)
ı	2	65200-5	GAD YAKOUN (7) DM R Johnson) M Meagher 4 9 9	_M Wighten 1
ı	3 .	043000-	CHEEKY CHAPPY (11) (CD) (Mrs. Jeanne Chepman) D Chapman 6 9 6	A Cuthane 11
ı	4		BOFFY (2) (CD) (Sten Baugh) 8 Baugh 4 9 4	
ł	5		ALJAZ (7) (CD) (Electrism And Gould Parmership) Miss Gay Kelleway 7 & 11	
ı	6		HARROLL TIMES (96) (J.C. Frebreit) D Show 3 8 11	
ı	7		ENCHANTICA (1) (Mis.) M. Berry) J. Berry 3.86	
1	В	368500-	VICTORIA STOUK (220) (D Love) J Pictering 4 8 3	N Cartisto
ı	9	000050-	SER TASKER (1) (CD) (I F Couplant) J L Hams 983	L Charmock
ı			SUITE FACTORS (39) (D) (Nigel Shelds) K Burler 3 8 2	S Drowne
ı	n	56006-4	BELINDA BILUE (10) (Mrs J Jackson) R Fehry 5 8 0	F Horton :
I			SOTONIAN (NEIH) (3) (CD) (Tim Dean) P Felgate 4 8 () (7ex)	
ı	13	00410-0	HONEYHALL (10) (Space McLaughin) N Bycook 4 7 13	J Quine 1:
ı	١.	٠.	- 13 declared -	
ı	BET	TM2: 7-2	Aljaz, 11-2 Buffy, 6-1 Sotonism, 13-2 Enchantica, 15-2 Cheeky Chappy	8-1 Wat Th
ľ	- n	4 4 A 4 1L		

Best, 10-1 Honey Hall, 12-1 others 1996: no corresponding meeting

ı			
13	L.50	RUSSELL BALDWIN & BRIGHT BREEZE-UP SALE CLAIMER (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 6f 168yds	€4
ם ו		CLAIMER (CLASS E) £4,025 acced 1m 67 166ycs	45.T
1	5112507	ROYAL CITIZEN (620) (CD) (John F Bottomley) J Bottomley 8 9 8	1 Charmock
Ž	04542-0	IN THE MONEY (7) (C) U E Bigg) R Holinshead 8 9 6	
3	2160/	BRVA (472) (D McCam) D McCam 5 9 4	
4	120342-	EULOGY (FR) (2005) (Cragade Contractors) K Burke 10 9 4	.S Drowne 1
6	60002-2	SOLDIER CONE (USA) (7) (Ladyswood Racing Club) Martyn Meade 7 9 2	T Fletd (7)
ě		ASTRAL MARSON (912) (Ed Weetman, Reynolds and Dean) G McCourt 6 9 0	
-			holme (7) 9
7	10050-0	CHELLY LAD (5) (The Good Fun Reight Club) R Judies 6.8 12	A Culture 2
İġ	00-		F Horton 1
ğ	0-0		R Perban 1
10	-00000	STORM WHO (112) (Mrs Bane M Burke) K Burke 4 8 10	Williams 4
ī		GARLANDHAYES (221) (Geo Taylor) Miss K George 5 8 9	Branchill (7)
1		TUDGETCOOKE MI AV II Dades I D Course 4 Q E	أحطم

BETTING: 3-1 Eulogy, 7-2 Threesocks, 4-1 Soldier Cove, 6-1 in The Money, 10-1 S

Troubadour Song went on to complete a hat-trick in claiming races after beating EULOGY four lengths at Southwell in June last year and Eulogy will be unlucky to come up against anything in such good form, fit from hurding Eulogy won two Southwell claimers early last year and looks a better ber than most of the others that have been in action over jumps recently. Soldier Cove had Stonecuster a long way behind when second to Stip Jig in a Lingfield claimer a week ago and can't be knocked for failing to get the better of the much-improved host large in a selfer these beforehold. Onen in improvement on the Earl's Scooperfer might field claimer a week ago and can't be knocked for failing to get the better of the much-improved Angel Face in a seller there beforehead. Open to improvement on the Flat, Stoneounter might do better over this longer trip and last month's win in a Uttoceter seller suggests he's in bet-ter form than the other huidlers. Royal Citizen won two course and distance claimers book in 1995 but has been pulled up both starts over jumps this winter. Bitya didn't race on the Flat last year, while Astrat Invasion hasn't raced on the level since July 1994, and neither has sparkled over hurdles recently. Is The Money was beaten 10 lengths when Carrary Fai-con won a handicap here in the autumn but that run suggests he can make his presence left at this level. He could be that vital bit fitter following last Saturday's run in another hand-icap won by The Great Flood. Threesocks will also have benefited from her latest outing — third to Sarasi in a Southwell seller and she looks a threat to Eulogy getting 13tb. Selection: EULOGY

2.20	TOTE ALL WEATHER LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 7f
20101-1	ELITE HOPE (USA) (7) (CD) (Exte Racing Club) N Timber 5 9 4 F Lynch (3) 8
	SET THE FASHION (7) (D) (R J Matthews) D Williams 8 9 4
241006-	FAILED TO HIT (14) (Mrs Magge McClean) N Littmoden 4 9 1D Sweeney (5) 6 V
2423-24	DESERT INVADER (5) (C) (D) (6F) (David W Crepman) D Crepman 6 8 12 A Culture 2
080-635	LITTLE IBNR (3) (CD) (Switterior Transport Ltd) P Brans 6 8 12Anthony Bond (7) 3
00263-6	MANABAR (9) (K S Rayner) M Polglase 5.8 12
050016-	MISS OFFSET (53) (CD) (Herdard Offset Limited) M Johnston 4 8 12
000303-	MYTTORS MISTAKE (14) (D) (Bordon Myttori) A Bailey 4 8 12
	- 8 declared -
784G: 8-4	Site Hope, 3-1 Depart Imader, 9-2 Myttous Histolie, 5-1 Miss Officet, 7-1 Little Hor.

Nigel Tinkler has ELITE HOPE in excellent shape and the mare can make it four in a row

Nigel Trivier has ELITE HOPE in excellent shape and the mare can make it four in a row over this seven furlorgs. Her winning run was interrupted when she switched to Lingfield's Equatrack on December 20. Eithe hope is penalsed 3b for each win, however, which means that Mystonis Mistake has a 12b pull for the three lengths that separated them on December 28. Alan Bailey has also booked competent 7b claimer lone Wands, but Mystonis Mistake is on a long fosing run and Eithe Hope has won well in the meantime. Miss Offset has an unpredictable ade but can be tricity to peg back, as she showed when beating Maxemia a neck here in March last year. Although on a handcap rating of only 52 that day, Miss Offset has put up better performances since and looks a danger, along with Desert Invader. He has been running well in handcaps rated 70, the upper limit for this race. Little liber along and 71 when third not leight Ornter here here access any in the searce a but helder here when the searce and helder here the searce. He has been numing wear in harbocapts rated 70, the upper infinition has race Listole long also ran of 70 when third to Leigh Crofter here two races ago but the seems a bit below he best at present. Although Set The Fastilion's Czech Republic win was over a mile and stu-he has been found warding in mile-and-a-half handcaps at home and his record over the years suggests this is more his trip. Memaber's second to Best Of All at Southwell in No-wember shows he stiff has what it takes to win on Fibresand this last three races have been on Equitocki, but that was in a claimer and he needs to Improve. Selections ELITE HOPE

2	2.50	PERTEMPS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 adde 1m 100yds	C4
1	1/43/04-	PATER NOSTER (139) (D) (New Window Factory) John A Harris 8 10 0	S Drowne
2	4/21440-	SABOT (105) (Guy Regol) C Thornton 4 10 0	lega McKeann
3	32030-2	SUPER HIGH (3) (CD) (C Hammond) P Howing 5 9 7	F Norton 12
4	00413-5	DUKE VALENTINO (3) (CD) (JE Bled R Holinshead 5.9.6) Gafffidhet (5) :
5		NASHAAT (USA) (142) (D) (Nigel Shelds) K Burke 9 9 2	
6		PUNICAH (208) (McCourt Fine Messs) G McCourt 4 8 11R	
7		STAR TALENT (22) (Miss to Crowley) Miss Gay Kelloway 6 8 7	
ġ		ANORYM (10) (D) (Wetherby Racing Bureau Ltd) D Nichols 5 8 1	
9		THREE WEEKS (7) (CD) (BF) (Duncan J Wittshre) W Mur 4 7 13	
10		LIVE PROJECT (7) (Ms Gilen Quan) M Johnston 5 7 12	
		AMBER VALLEY (656) (Berighire Commercial) D Williams 6 7 10	
		SUGA HAWK (7) (John Patrick Barry) E Alston 5 7 10	
		BENJANN (7) (D) (M W Lawrence) P Sans 7 7 10	
	2-500 4	13 destroid	

- 13 declared - 14 Min weight: 7st 10th. The handsop weight notes Valley 7st 9th, Suga Hawk 7st 7th, Beauman 7st 6th, BETTHIG: 11-2 Separ Wigs, 8-1 Asseym, 7-1 Nesthant, 15-2 Duba Valentian, 8-1 Pater Noster, Star Talent, Three Weeks, 10-1 Live Project, 11-1 Beauman, 12-1 Pankah, 14-1 Sabot, 18-1 others

FORM GLIDE

The extended rune furiongs proved a shade too far for SUPER HIGH here on Wednesday when he was collared by Second Colours made the final furiong. However, Super High suited eight lengths clear of the others, including Duble Valentino, and forcing tactics might just pay off over this slightly shorter trip. Dulie Valentino clearly has ground to make up but is only 2b higher in the handleap than when beating Super High (eighth) eight and a half lengths here in November. He shouldn't be ruled out. Just over half a length separated Thrae Weeles, Suga Hawk and Beaustian when they were second, third and fourth to Mono Lady here a week ago. With the other two out of the handleap, Three Weeles might have the edge once although Suga Hawk seems certain to improve for the run – he first since lest July and his first since he came from Ireland. Live Project also ran here tast Saturday and would have finished closer to Elite Hope but for being badly hampered. His second to Maple Bay here a year ago was in a seller but that was a far effort bearing in mind that Maple Bay went on to win hire races in 1996, the majority of them handleaps. Anonym has been bear in handleaps on his last two visits and this is more competitive than the claiming race he won at Southwell 10 days ago.

Selections SUPER High

3.20 WEATHERBYS GROUP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) C4
1 4030/2-3 HOLDERS HILL (7) (BF) IC E Whoteley) M Measter 5 9 13
2 PRIDEMOOD PICKER (Mrs B Moms) R Price 10 9 13 R Perham 2
3 04443/-5 PROPHETS HONOUR (10) (BF) (Mean) Wolers) P Hastern 5 9 13
4 TANGO MAN (Nay List Foot Racing Syndicate) R Price 5 9 13F Norton 1
5 255000- PLAGSTAFF (USA) (12) (Pagssaff Parmersho) K Burle 4 9 12
6 20/0005- NAME OF OUR FATHER (USA) (70) (T M Monts) P Boxen 4 9 12
7 00/500-3 HAZES (9) (Mrs 1z Nelson) Mess Gay Kellenay 5 9 8
8 5- KULEPOPSE (47) (A Jane) A Matholiand 4 9 ?
9 50032-3 TALLINAH BELLE (7) (Trojan Racing) N Lithnoden 4 9 7T G Miclaughlin 9
10 60- TOUCKPN'90 (42) (Greenland Park Ltd) M. Johnston 3 8 5
11 03- MOVE THE CLOUDS (42) (W.) Gredleyl J Farehave 3.8.0
- 11 decisred -

FORM GUIDE

James Fanshawe should have a fair idea of what is needed to best Holders HIR and Tal-Idiah Beile as he trans Oneforheditch, who beat those two on this course last Saturday. Fanshawe is also responsible for Flamboyance, who upset the favourite, Selbery, first time up in a malden here on Wednesday, so the signs are that MOVE THE CLOUDS is the on they have to beat. Har third to Premier here an weeks ago shows she's going the right way (she'd unseated her inder and botted before an earlier maiden at Doncaster). Hazel finished (she'd unseased her noter and botted before an earlier maxion at Doncesten, Maxion Innsersed 14 lengths behind Holders Hall here in the maxion dominated by Raheen but her subsequent lengthed third to Tawafek in first-time blinkers suggests site can make more of a race of it. She wears a visor this time. Touch'N'Go isswerthi finished some way adrift of Move The Clouds here in November but he was the stable's second atring behind the winner, Premier, A Rainbow Quest half-brother to several winners, Touch'N'Go might need a longer top. Name Of Our Father, a winning hurdler, must be given a chance as he's shown ability on the Fist in the past.

Selection: MOVE THE CLOUDS

	0~ pool	
[3	3.50	CORAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO C4.
1	002132-	MELLROY (USA) (12) (Exos of the late Mr R B Beldeson) P Kelleway 9 7M. Wigham 7 V
2	0056-	MUTAHADETH (107) U C Fretwell D Straw 83 Facing 2
3	0004-1	CHATEAUHERAULT (4) (Microel Cook) P Haslam 8 2 (Sex)
4	1025-34	SKELTON SOVEREIGN (7) (GB) (GBelley) R Hollinshead 7 13F Lynch (3) 3
5	554003-	DAMENELL PROMICESS (LA) U D Graham) R Hollinshead 7 12 Columb 6 B
6	0006-64	STATE OF GOLD (5) (Neith West Partnershot J Hetherton 7 11 N Kennedy 4 B
7	080426-	SILENT VALLEY (39) (Westwarby Racing Bureau Ltd) D Nicholls 7 10
		- 7 declared -

Minutum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weights: Start Valley 7st 3th. BETTEVE: 7-4 Chateauherauth, 3-1 Militory, 7-2 Skeiton Sovereign, 6 BETTERS: 7-4 Chateauheraut, 3-1 Milery, of Gold, 14-1 Mutabadeth, Silent Valley

FORM GUIDE

CHATEAUHERAULT confirmed he's a progressive type by beating Double Espresso at Ling-field on Tuesday in what looked a tougher race than this. Chateauhemult has picked up a penalty and is on a different surface today but he can improve enough to dely the 5th ea-tra. Militray is more successful on the all-weather tracks than he was on turf but he must

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + NEWCASTLE 972 982 973 983 WARWICK 1 LINGFIELD 974 984 0891 261 970

the of the propulate: 1 15 3 3 8 17 5 19 3 2/3 forms sylvine in betting 1 2 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 0 had high stone: 52 81 181 201 74 201 201 101 251 121 See 5 6 6 6 7 10 8 5 7 5 5 11.8 11.1 10.0-11.5 10.13 10.2 10.13 10.8 10.2 9.12 offit or loss to E1 status Parception -15.50 Second Percustes -14.00 ligh of whiteen placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 50% Epidobi (white: Barriorco) Again 5-2 (1987) Top traineur P Multis - Redundant Pai (1989 & 1980) You lockey No judge has not the more than ores in the past 10 years

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Dobbin goes to work at the double

Tony Dobbin grasped the op-portunity to display his skills at Musselburgh yesterday as National Hunt racing returned after a 14-day absence. Mild weather in the east of Scotland allowed jumping to be staged for the first time since the same track hosted a fixture on 27 De-

Dobbin, one of the best jockeys in the North, has plenty to look forward later in the season with the prospect of partnering The Grey Monk in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. He did his confidence no harm when netting a 50-1 double with wins aboard Triennium and Highland Park and was seen to especially good effect on the latter in a tight finish to the handicap hurdle. Six horses were still in with a chance jumping the final flight, but Dobbin kept his mount going in fine style to fend off Snow Board by a neck.

At Southwell, Undawaterscubadiva broke his duck at the 15th attempt and halted a 160day winnerless sequence for his trainer, Martin Bielby, when winning the Buttercup Amateurs Handicap (division two). Partnered for the first time by Carol Williams, wife of the jockey Tyrone, he hit the front entering the straight and shook off the 6-4 favourite, Raindeer Quest, to score by four lengths.

2.10 ADVERSPORT DIPPER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £18,500 added 2m 4f NEWCASTLE 12.35 Son Of Anshan 1.05 Lord Gyllene 1.35 Sea Victor 2.10 Simply Dashing 2.45 Lochnagrain 3.15 JYMJAM JOHNNY (nap) 3.45 Mr Lurpak GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places). Left-hand, own course, with rising run-in; tough, galloping track. Course is Som Not town. ADMINISTON: Club 5122 (OAPs 510); Taxes 50 (OAPs 57); Siver Ring 54 (OAPs tilsabled 52). CAR PARE: Free. SETTING: 5-4 Singly Destring, 7-4 Sparky Gayle, 6-1 Down The Fell, 12-1 Bellyline, Brighter Shade, 16-1 Major Look, 20-1 others SIS RACING

2.45 BITTERN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 3m WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE HUNNERS: Woodbands Boy (1.05) has been sent 285 miles by R Cartis from Lambourn, Berlothre. 2.45
5.3,650 added 3m
1 121/113 SANTA CONCERTO (316) L Lungo 8 12 0 R Supple
2 391111 LOCHMASSAMI (25) (D BF) Mis M Revely 9 11 11.5 (Luc (3)
3 121/4/3 HOUSE CAPTAM (21) (D) | Fightenist 8 11 10 P Curborny
4 631415 CUTHERON (NO (306) Mis M Revely 9 11 8 LC McCommist (7) 8
5 4003-21 ROBERTY LEA (23) Mis M Revely 9 11 8 LC McCommist (7) 8
6 4-43132 DALLY BOY (21) (C) T Easterly 9 11 8 LC McCommist (7) 8
5 01-131 D HALE DERRING (55) (D) N Instan Daves 7 11 2 LC Librarity 9
01.3 THE ROSEACH (62) | Forstave 6 11 2 P Hide
10 03-1211 ELA MATA (35) Mis A Santron 6 11 2 P Hide
11 058-813 MISTA (35) Mis A Santron 6 11 2 P Hide
11 058-813 MISTA (35) Mis A Santron 6 11 2 P Hide
11 058-813 MISTA (18) BON (82) | Forstave 6 11 2 P Hide
11 058-813 MISTA (18) MISTA (19) I Uson 8 10 12 P Halforn
12 06212-5 LEX (42 W Stony 6 10 12 P HARGANI (5) I GOLIST (19) I HALE (19) I GOLIST (10) I A 5 Smith
16 261335 MICHOLAS PLANT (40) | Godis 8 10 0 P L Commission (15 10-2331 PHARARE (23) (2) R Woothouse 7 10 1 A 5 Smith
16 261335 MICHOLAS PLANT (40) | Godis 8 10 0 P L Commission (15 10-2311 PHARARE (23) PLANT (40) | Godis 8 10 0 P L D P HIDE (15) I Livic, 6-1 Smith Concepts, 7-1 Locksangusin, 8-1 Roberty
Lea, Continout Rid, 10-1 House Capitale, Halie Derrieg, 12-1 others O321 SON OF ANSHAM (28) (CD) Ms A Swinzerk 11.5 _ J Supple O CRY BBN (SB) A Widness 10.12 _ _____ S Toylor (S) CLIBERRUM BMESTRO T Essenty 10.12 _ _____ P Carberry DOUBLE AGENT J H Johnson 10.12 _ _____ P Carberry DOUBLE AGENT J H Johnson 10 12 _______ Carberry
MELTENISON (42) M Hammond 10 12 _____ Mr C Bonner (5)
MEDIE MATCH (38) J J O'Nell 10 12 _____ R Michaels (5) TIMO: 3-1 Melterrison, 7-2 Sen Of Assitue, 4-1 No More Hussie, 6-1 toon Park, 10-1 Double Agent, 12-1 Condutes Maestro, 14-1 others

1.05 PINTAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C)

1.35 HENNESSY COGNAC SERIES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) £8,000 added 2m

3/12-21 AZRU (21) (ii) J Fraceschi (5 11 9 P Carbony
BLOMBERS J Farshave 5 11 5 P Hide
4 BOLIN FRANK (60) T Eastedy 5 11 5 A Ringbre
2/P CLAYERING (39) (37) J Hoffen 7 11 5 M A Ringbre
(0480-4 DON'T (ELI TOM (23)) Wade 7 11 5 K Jones

00450-4 DON'T TELL TOM (23) I Wade 7 11 5 _______ IK Jones 4 B. CRUNK SENOR (22) IR Woodhouse 5 11 5 ______ Densi Byrne 222-523 FISSAN (22) (BF) M Hammord 5 11 5 ______ Donated

WAN (43) J Adem 6 11 5.

60-UO JERICHOUS NOTRIMAN (43) J. Adam 6 11.5 30-30PP LEPTON (36) J. Curds 6 11.5 0/2 MALTA MAN (40) P. Cheestrough 7 11.5 11541 MESTER RM (21) (2) N Twiston-Daves 5 1

00. TSANGA (273) G M Moore 5 11 5.

BETTNG: 2-1 Alcoho, 4-1 Sea Victor, 6-1 Blombe to Man, 8-1 Quango, 10-1 Fassan, 12-1 others

3.15 NE RACING ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 2m 110yds 5122-23 ALIADEER (42) (8F) M W Easterny 8 12 0 ...M A Fitzgoreid 8 552-644 ONE FOR THE POT (32) (CD) (8F) lass A Naughton 12 11 10. 8 652/473 CHALL WWD (261) N Bjertik 8 10 5 R Johnston 9 4330-50 SHPER SAMDY (45) (0) F Wattern 10 10 1 X Johnston 10 A001 CROSSING (28) (20) R McDoneld 10 10 0 R Johnston 11 000R1-2 NULLBRILLY BOY (50) J H Johnston 7 10 0 MF C Beamer (3

- 11 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Wester George, 4-1 Agadeer, 5-1 Crosshot, 7 The Pot, 8-1 Actua, 10-1 Chill Wind, Full O'Praise, 12-1 Other Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Twin States 9st 11lb, Pennice Prode 9st 9to, Off The Bru 9st Olb, Jendee 8st 12to. Cool Weather 8st 5lb. BETTRIC: 11-4 Seven Towers, 3-1 Lord Gyllens, 7-1 Grange Brake, 10-1 Cellidir Boy, Woodlands Boy, Reselan Castle, 12-1 others

3.45 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 34 BELLY BUCKSTON (21) I Notion 5 11 4 D J Kavansoft (5 BRANDSRY MEDSFIRE (23) P Reaction (5 11 4 B Grattam (7) CUTISTONIN BOY Mis S Bradbure 6 11 4 M Foster HELPERRY I H Johnson 5 11 4 P Cachery BITO THE BLACK May M Reverse 6 11 4 Dobbin CO MACPIE MEDDRY (22) Lungo 6 11 4 Dobbin CO MACPIE MEDDRY (22) Lungo 6 11 4 R Supple OVER ZERLOUS / Upon 5 11 4 J Ochome 6 BECCA (23) Denys Smith 5 11 4 R Supple CONTROL (1) O RECCA (23) Denya Smith 5 11 4..... ROYAL SPRUCE G M Moore B 11 4..... CHR CAROL I Paries 5 10 13. __Y Smith BUSTER TWO J Haddons 4 10 6 ES 60 R Basomen 4 10 6 MY WANTAGE M M Eactory 4 10 6 SIR BOSTON R Woodhouse 4 10 6

CHAMPS GEL B Murrey 4 10 1. - 25 doctored BETTENS: 2-1 Mr Lurgels, 7-2 Colour Code, 6-1 late The Black, 10-1 Lord
Podgets, Sr Bob, Helperby, Magnio Melody, 12-1 others

LEOPARDSTOWN

12.35 Rawy 1.05 The Carrig Rua 1.35 Rock'n Roll Kid 2.05 Whale Of A Knight HYPERION 2.35 Kaltak 3.10 Kilcoo Boy

Recognize is six males south of Dublin. ADMISSION: Reserved Enclosure 511; Grandstand 58. CAE PARK: Free.

SIS

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: A P O'Brien — 22 winners from 164 run ners gives a success ratio of 13.4% and a loss to a \$1 level state of 559.20; A L T Moore — 15 winners, 105 runners, 14.3%, 5.37.37; P Mullins — 12 winners, 69 runners, 14.3%, 5.37.37; P Mullins — 12 winners, 69 runners, 14.3%, 5.47.37; P Mullins — 12 winners, 69 runners, 14.3%, 5.55.37. nors, 17.4%, -55.40; N Meade — 10 winners, 84 runners, 11.9%, -553.97.

■ LEADING JOCKETS: C F Swan — 27 winners, 128 rides, 24.1%, -56.38; F Woods — 14 winners, 93 rides, 15.1%, -514.12; C O'Dwyer — 12 winners, 100 rides, 12%, -537.47; T P Treasy — 10 winners, 53 rides, 16.9%, -53.16.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rawy 112.35; Colfidon Fog (2.35).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Rock's Eoli Ki4 (1.35) won at Thurles on Monday

12.35 FITZPATRICK CASTLE HURDLE £6,000 added 2m 1 32/3470 PERARTY VAIUE £4,110
1 32/3470 PERARTY CLIFFOR Synicate: A L 7 Moore 6 11 11 FWoods
2 8661 MR BANGER BASICS Mrs. Audre, Healty T J Tasse 6 11 11 N WERGERSON
3 80 ASK Mrs. ACANN Genuds Synicate: W J Barker 7 11 7 MR Report
4 531: FROMER GERRY (Castion Synicate: J A Rym 7 11 7 R Damacody
5 41002 RMMY (USA Com P Motherus) C Rocke 5 11 7 C O'Drayer 8
6 059003 FOYLE WANDERER (# B Long Desmont McDonogli 6 11 2 D T Brants
6 059003 FOYLE WANDERER (# B Long Desmont McDonogli 6 11 2 D T Brants
9ETTING: 4-5 Rowy, 9-2 Mr Bander Basics, 5-1 Kilspindle, 7-1 Foyle Wanderer, 8-1 Father Gen-

ry, 25-1 Ask Me Again 1996: Aldryar 11 7 K F O'Bren 15 ran

FORM GUIDE

PAWY'S performance will provide an indicator to The Ladbroke. The stablemote of Khayrawan had Clifdon Fog a short head behind when bearen half a length by Legal And Tender over course and distance a fortnight ago and had previously run Guest Performance to three lengths at Fairyhouse. He is going to be hard to beat in this company. Mr Bedder Bastics, came good when making all over course and distance 12 days ago and should confirm placings with Foyle Wanderer, who was more than 10 lengths back third and only 4lb better in. Father Gerry won a Limenck bumper on Boarig Day but is up against it.

Selection: RAWY

1.05 FITZPATRICK HOTEL GROUP NOVICE CHASE E8,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £5,480 211371- FRICHPALM (Finchpain Limitel) F Floor 7 11 8
211371- FRICHPALM (Finchpain Limitel) F Floor 7 11 8
1324/15- THE CARRIC RUA fileorie Moore Nachaer Rym 7 11 8
FS6212- ULTRA FLUTTER (Ourse Higges) Michael Houngan 10 11 8
6005P3- GARRAGAH (Robert Sincher) J H Scott 8 11 1
212012- MAN OF ARRAN (Partic O'Learly Partic O'Learly 7 11 4
212012- MAN OF ARRAN (Partic Sincher) Tromas Curbery 7 11 4
8F8425- MATIVE STATUS (Thomas Carbery) Thomas Curbery 7 11 4
8F8425- MATIVE STATUS (Thomas Carbery) Thomas Curbery 7 11 4
8P. RADBANT REVER (I E Mullern) JE Manner 7 11 4
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8P. RADBANT REVER (I E Mullern) JE Manner 7 11 4
8P. RADBANT REVER (I E Mullern) JE Manner 7 11 4
8P. RADBANT REVER (I E MULLER) JE MULLER REVER .F J Roos K F O'Brien

- 8 BOCKING: 7-4 The Carrig Rea, 5-2 Ultra Flatter. 4-1 Man Of Amen, 9-2 Finchpates, 8-1 Microbiles, 12-1 Notice Status, 16-1 Garabagh, 33-1 Radiant River 1996: Treble Status 14 R Durmoody 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

HOTRA FLITTER, the oldest horse in the field, looks the one they all have to beat. Muchael Houngain's gelding was beaten by the much-improved Dun Belle over a furiong less at Limenc's last time but had previously come good over bug and three-quarter makes at Nevan, where he had Nattive Status over 27 lengths betrind. Ultra Flutter is best when plenty of use is made of him and, hopefully, his noter will send him on some way out. Flinchpaths with a nowice chase at the last meeting but The Carring Ruis is rated a bigger danger. He ran well in the race won by Danoil here on Boung Day and could be better suited by this longer trip. Main Of Arrain has appeal, even though he was besten so lengths by Jeffell at Clormel lest time, but Miracle Mein, the British raider, is up against it. Selection: ULTRA FLUTTER

1.35 S M MORRIS HANDICAP HURDLE £6,000 added BBC1 _C F Swar ...K FOTBA

BETTERG: 6-4 Rosin The Bow, 3-1 Tell The Ripper, 9-2 Rock's Roll Kirl, 6-1 Mullover, 12-1 Rising Waters, 14-1 Appellate Court 1996: Boherman Cassle 10 3 J P Brodenck 23 ran

FORM CHIEF

ROSIN THE 80W has improved considerably since joining Adan O'Brien and has won three of his last four starts, including an effortless success over this trip at Navari last time, when he had Rockin Roll Kid 26 tengths behind. He should cortainly be able to confirm form with last Monday's Thurles winner on only 56 worse terms. Tell The Nipper may chase him home. Michael Houngan's sk-year-old will appreciate the trip and did well to take fourth to Miltonfield in a better-class roce over course and distance 15 days ago. Gleanfields Castle, who landed a Down Royal maden hundle by seven lengths over this trip on Boxing Day, has more on his plate, but Middlever could but into a place.

2.05 PIERSE LEOPARDSTOWN HANDICAP BBC1 & C4 131F90- WHALE OF A KNIGHT (Sean Galari) A L T Moore 8 10 0 ...

-8 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handcap weight: Time For A Run 9st 11ib.
BETTING: 2-1 Whale Of A Knight, 7-2 Rune For A Run, 9-2 Ring Of The Gales, 5-1 Idiots Venture,
8-1 Royal Mountbrowne, 11-1 Tryfrion, 14-1 The Crazy Bishop, Flasare Seal
1998: Royal Mountbrowne 10 9 C F Swan 12 ran

TIME FOR A RUN was well backed when staying on mito third behind New Co in a valuable handicap chase over course and distance 15 days ago and should be hard to bea off bottom weight. Tryfinion was towards the rear when he tell at the 11th and Whale Q off bottom weight. Thyfurion was towards the near when he fell at the 11th and Whale Of A Kinight was body hampered at the third last and lost all chance in that race. After Moore's Seven-year-old is particularly well handicapped on his final run last season and could prove a big danger. Moore also runs King Of The Gales, who came from well back to take second to the it-tated Johnny Settsade in a conditions chase over the tru here formight ago. However, the 10-year-old does not have an easy task at the weights and nding arrangements suggest that Moore's third runner, Flasure Seal, is preferred. Royal Mountbrowne, who won this last season, will have his work cut cut to follow up under 12st and the stattlemane killots Vendure is rated a bigger danger. The Crany Blakop

	2.35	THE LADBROKE HURDLE £60,100 BBC:	1 & C4
1	127505	MOTOCAMPI ADMINISTRATO (Não C. A Motore) P Madino 6 11 12	T P ?#880;
2	1/206-3	EXPRESS GET (M W Homer, H Young, D S Arrold) Mrs M Reveley (GE	8 11 10 N Smit
3	101111	GIFEST PERFORMANCE (S Muineri) D T Huthes 5 11 10	K (mg/kk)
4	1111-1	PENNY A Daty (J Good) Mrs M Reseley (GE) 7 11 10	
5	117222	HEL SOCIETY (P Gavey) Noel Meads 5 11 6	R Deservood
5	54112-1	EXECUTIVE DESIGN (L.T Foster) Mrs M Reveloy (GB) 5 11 5	Crbi
7	51B141-	RHAVRANIANS (John P McMarus) C Roche 5 11 4	C O'Dwye
8	1/1DBDP	MAGICAL LADY (John McKav) M J P O'Brien 5 11 3	T P Rock
9	4F1211-	KENG OF KERRY (The Local Boys Syndroses) A P O'Bnen 6 10 13	
	38/220-	SHAMES MERO files Vera O'Brien) Pater McCreary 7 10 13	P Broderici
11	84/25P2-	FAMILY WAY (John P McManus) A L T Moore 10 10 11	F Ylbods
12	073534	METASTASIO (F Malor) D G McArde 5 10 10	H Rogers B
13	5/40190-	REASELVIA (P Senezio) E J O'Grady 7 10 10	6 Bradley
14	127722-	BLINT OF EAGLES (Eagle Syndicate) W P Multi-S 8 10 9	D J Cases
15	027030-	LADY ARPEL (Patrick O'Leary) Patrick O'Leary 5 10 9	K FO'Bridg
15	0/84613-	CLIFDON FOR UP HID JS Bolger 6 10 8	A P MicCoy B
17	F112-11	CENTAUR SOPRESS (Centaur Racing) A Streeter (GER 5 10 4	
18	643-343	KAIDAK (C.) Murchy) J Carr (GB) 6 10 4	رضما كــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
19	1100-02	MASTER TREE (Jobel Ali Rooms Statiles) Mrs. J Priman (GB) 7 10 4	N Williamson
20	0010-46	PALACEGATE KING (Cras N Whitens) A Whitens (GE) 8 10 4	عدر من السبب
21	643147-	FORTAINE LODGE (ABC Syndicate) Anthony Walling 7 10 1	وشهولا السيب
22	440321-	BLACK QUEEN (Heat Polimeter) J E Kiely 6 9 13	A J O'Exico
23	315173	RESCUE TRAE (6 Berger) Nevin Prendengest 4 9 12	
		- 23 declared -	
Mir	imum veig	nt: 9st 12th. True handicay weight Rescue Time 9st 10th.	

FAMILY WAY can step up on his second to Dance Beat in this race 12 months ago. His trainer has an excellent record in this and Frank Woods' mount has been laid out for it all season. Family Way ran a great trial when going under by a short head to Dardim, despree being notice by a little-known 7th claimer, on his reappearance at Fairyhouse at the end of November and has been kept tresh. All the money has been for Masyrawani and Christy Roche's effortless Listowel winner has strong claims despute the 8th rise in the weights. That hike looks like putting paid to Guest Performance. Express GRT and the profife-scorer Penny A Day. Executive Design is rated the best of Mary Reveley's tro. although the her-track-seeling Centaer Express must also have a good chance. Citideo Fog is binkered for the first time and that should enable him to overcome the sluggest-ness he showed before running on into third in the trial here a foreignt ago. The consisnent HMI Society and King Of Kerry look best of the remainder, but out are Magical Lady, Rescue Time and Lady Arpel. Selectio

3.10 ASHFORD NH FLAT RACE £4,500 added 2m Penalty Value £3,082 O- EXECUTIVE MERC & P Hickey E P Hickey 6 11 11 O- GROWNEN LAD (Mrs S Newley J A Beny 6 11 11 OUR BED (Lanes McCoy) (Keyn Percergers 6 11 11 3051- CORYROSE (M J E Thorninii H de Brontead 5 11 9 11 09- HI-LO PICCOLO (Man O'Connot) Desmond McDongt 5 11 2.....Miss S McDongt (7)

- 11. declared
BETTING: 5-2 Kilcoo Boy, 3-1 Clay And Wattioe, 9-2 Drokchead Lapsen, 6-1 Valley Bree, 6-1 Our

Bid, 8-1 Coryrose, 14-1 others 1996: Noble Tryne 12 4 Mr T Mutters 14 ron 3.40 TANEY NH FLAT RACE £4,500 added 4YO 2m Penalty Val-ue £3,082

COUNTY CAPTAIN (Mrs. Lynne Lyons) 6 M Lyons 11 7 ... CYBER MANOR (Mrs.C.P Murphy) Francis Erins 11 7.... DUE TO YOU (C P Byrne) S J Mahon 11 7 LOCH BAN (Richard Barron) H de Bromheed 11 7 MYNON GOLD (Festual Syndicate) W P Mulins 11.7.

- y conserve -BETHING: 5-4 Rainhow Victor, 11-4 Myton Gold, 7-1 Lock Ren, 8-1 Slaney Notive, 10-1 Aleksansu-na, Cujess Rose, 14-1 County Capitalia, 16-1 others 1998: Fishin Joella 10 11 Mr Jariath Connolly 10 ran

FOOTBALL: There is more to West Ham's hard man than short hair and long suspensions. Glenn Moore meets an East End Jeon

Dicks sets out to challenge the cliches

ulian Dicks? He's that horrible one. Why are you interviewing him? Reputations, once gained, are hard to shake off and my girlfriend's reaction is fairly typical where the West Ham defender is concerned.

Skinhead, scourge of referees and fancy wingers, keeper of rottweilers and shotguns, lover of heavy metal, fast cars, Harley Davidsons and Arnie Swarzenegger. The Hammers fullback, it would appear, is a walking cliché.

It is an image which is dis-pelled as soon as you get within stud range. Dicks is amiable and soft-spoken, with a enough of a West Country burr to recall his Bristol roots. He has done a few things he is not proud of but, at 28, he has matured and mellowed. Still ferocious on the pitch, but more in control.
"I've been booked four times

this season," he says, with a cer-tain pride, when we met at West Ham's snow-covered training ground this week. "A few years ago I'd be on my

'I was a bit of a bastard. Billy Bonds says in the book he wanted to chin me at times'

second suspension by now. The penny's dropped, hopefully. But I know the reputation will always be there.

"I used to come off the pitch and argue with the manager. It never got me anywhere, just put me in his bad books. Now I wait to Monday and if I've still got something to say I do it privately.

A few more contradictions. Dicks, a devoted family man to his eight-year-old twin daughters, is also a regular at local children's hospitals. He is a keen student of native American Indian history, is a regular golfer and, with his wife Kay, grooms his dogs for show (though the rottweiler did have a run-in with the press when his daughters were being harassed in the wake of one on-field ble of playing cultured football, year's injury, he is in contention

Dicks is now promoting one of the best football biographies subject. "I don't want to play of recent years. Unusually for an for England. It doesn't interauthorised biography. it is a est me anymore. If they rang warts-and-all portrayal. He me up, I wouldn't play.



Julian Dicks at West Ham's training ground this week, preparing for today's visit to Anfield and a game against Liverpool, a club "I don't regret leaving"

emerges as a flawed but fundamentally decent human being. Just like most people, perhaps?
It is obvious that he is his own

man. While more and more players go in for long stretches and light pasta meals before playing, Dicks' warm-up consists of two cans of Coke. Asked if he would agree to the Ruud Gullit regime if he was at Chelsea, he answers a straight

More contentiously, would give Glenn Hoddle the same answer. With Dicks' form rather better than West Ham's, Andy Hincheliffe and Phil Neville injured, Stuart Pearce immersed in managing Nottingham Forest and Graeme Le Saux recently returned from a for a first England call-up.

Dicks is quite firm on this

speak his mind has not always been welcomed. His disagreements with Billy Bonds hastened his move from West Ham to Liverpool and a falling-out with Roy Evans led to his return.

Dicks is back at Anfield today. Liverpool are top. West Ham fighting relegation, but he says: "I don't regret leaving. still there I would be. I don't regret moving there either. I enjoyed my time there.

'I had got on all right with Roy when he was assistant [to Souness]. I played the last 16 games the season he took over. Then we got beat 4-1 by Bolton pre-season and me and Mark Wright were blamed. He had a go at Wrighty in the dressingday the papers were saying I was unfit and overweight. If people have something to say they should say it to me, not the papers. I had a row with him and

Dicks' determination to that was it, he did not speak to himself. I think he thought he beak his mind has not always me for 10 weeks apart from was the best thing that ever hap-

saying hello.
"He's a friendly guy and I like him. I've respect for him, but that's the way it was. He made me train with the kids. That was no good to me. So I'd go in and, after 10 minutes. I'd had enough. We'd start at half-ten, I'd be home at quarter past eleven - and I lived in Chester, half an hour away."

Short-lived it may have been, but the move to Liverpool appears to have been one of the two turning points in Dicks' life. Reading through the book, it seems he had reached a stage at West Ham where he had begun to consider himself bigger than the club.
"I was a bit of a bastard,"

room but not me. Yet the next Dicks admits. "Billy Bonds says in the book he wanted to chin me at times." Even worse, his wife indicates she was thinking rectors. If I think something is of leaving him. "He was absolutely full of it's wrong, I'd tell him."

Nationwide Football League First Division

13 Manchester City v Crystal Palace

10 Bradford City v Oxford Utd

12 ipswich v Sheffield Utd ...

14 Oldham v Huddersfield.....

15 Portsmouth v Bolton

16 QPR v Bainsley

17 Reading v Charlton .

18 Southend v Norwich ..

Second Division

19 Btackgooi v Luton ...

11 Grimsby v Port Vale .

pened," Kay says. "We had to sort ourselves out or I was going back to Birmingham to make a new life for myself."

Salvation came with the move to Liverpool. "When I was first here [at West Ham] I could be suspended for four games but the fifth game I knew I'd be back in the side. But at Liverpool there are so many good players. I never got dropped but when was out of favour with Roy Evans, things changed. It made me realise I was not indispensable. That's when I realised foothall wasn't everything."

The change was noted with relief by Kay and West Ham. *Some people did not want me back because of how Γd been. Dicks admits. "I didn't give a toss about anyone. I used to row with Billy, Harry, the players, diright, and the manager thinks

Third Division

31. Barnet v Scunthorpe 32. Brighton v Northampton . 33. Cambridge Utd v Exeter .

34 Cerdiff v Lincoln City

35 Carlisle v Torquay...

- Hull City v Swansea

Leyton Onent v Rochdale Wigari v Scarborough

Beil's Scottish League

36 Chester v Hartlennoi

37 Doncaster v Colchester

The other formative move was Dicks' first, as a 14-yearold, from his Bristol home to Birmingham. He grew up living in the Knowle West council estate. It was a tough area, get-

One of those on the receiv-

ing end was Lou Macari, Bonds'

predecessor. In his case the dis-

We used to go in the gym and

kick hell out of each other,"

Dicks says. "One day I went

straight through and I thought

I'd broken his leg. But he always

used to come back for more.

"He wanted us to play the long ball. This was West Ham;

we're supposed to play football.

He stopped us eating chips on

didn't like me drinking Coke. I just used to do it behind his

It's not the best of places and it was one of the reasons I did leave," Dicks agrees. When Birmingham came in, his

ting tougher.

Photograph: Adam Scott

parents, like Alan Shearer's, left the decision to go to him. "If I hadn't got on in football I'd have ended up in trouble. I was put in a police cell when I was about 10 for about five hours. I used to nick stuff like most kids, but I got caught. It was

Friday and having dessert. He

He mixed with some interspent a lot of time with them. 14, they were 16, 17, 18 They looked after me when I was there. If I got any trouble, they sorted it out for me

"At Birmingham, I grew up very quickly. When I was at home my mum done my bed room, my ironing, my washin but I had to do all that myself? He was also taken under the

wing of Ron Saunders and stayed out of trouble off the pitch, though he was sent off for the first time while still in the youth side.

Seven other dismissals are listed in one of the more musual book appendices (one page lists his games and goals, three pages his 101 bookings— just one for Liverpool—and dismissals). The worst red card was for elbowing Franz Carr in 1992. "I just knew I was going. to elbow him. And that was it off. To this day I don't know why I did it.

I've made loads of mistakes. As long as you learn from them, it's not so bad. It just took

'Macari stopped us eating chips on Friday and having dessert. He didn't like me drinking Coke'

me 10 years to learn from them. I'm not ashamed of anything but, if there is one thing, that would be it.'

permission for boarding kennels on his Essex country estate (currently knee-deep in snow. drive). He also fancies a move

vears older than Dicks and he still wouldn't like to play against

TV v terrace No 200 by Simon Carroll

For those of us who consume much of our football intravenously hooked to the television, the Christmas feast was a pleasure. It was, in many ways. traditional footy Christmas. The turkey - this year Southampton - was ceremoniously dispatched and will continue to be devoured until well into the new year; an overindulgence of alcohol produced a certain amount of blurred vision, which may explain some of the refereeing decisions. And most of us have now seen the thearre of our early season dreams turned into panto.

Additionally, like many of the enjoyable excesses of the season of goodwill - and I do not mean the Tottenham defence - it has often been accompanied by the nagging of a close relative. For those who enjoy the caress of the remote control, this means listening to the complaints of that insistent relation, the local terrace football supporter. Yes, heavens preserve the couch potato supporter from a righteous frying by those radio phone-in fans or good friends whose joy in life is to preach that theirs is the only true faith and to be a "real" supporter you need to have an umbilical cord attaching you to

Let us take this mentality to its natural conclusion. If supporters must come from a club's town or city then, logically, everybody and everything connected with the club should do the same. If being a local is the golden rule for following a team then it must also

be a prerequisite for being on the pitch. The players should have been able to hear the us, its needles scattered at the sweet sound of the terraces roar as they emerge from the womb. The same rule should also apply to finances. Sponsorship

raised within the confines of the home town. Thus clubs, large and small, should have the local pub plastered across their chest and, in many cases, this would probably be more appropriate than their current sponsors.

Yet these financial arguments should be put into context. Money is only important if the terrace supporter wishes to see their team to win trophies, or at least the occasional match, to see too quality players and sit in comfort while watching the game. Without money players cannot be signed, wages cannot be paid and stadiums cannot be built.

In this sense a team's television fan base is vital to the modern game. For many years clubs have been dependent on revenues from TV companies. sponsorship and advertising.

television supporters have much in common. Most supporters pick a team at a young age and stick with that club, experiencing the frustration and heartbreak which that choice can bring.

Both types of supporter enjoy the game, both passionately support their team and, in the age of modern stadiums, both spend their time on their backsides as, in fact, we are all couch-potato supporters in 1997. More importantly, few of us actually only fit perfectly into either of these categories. Most fans of the small screen will also attend matches on occasions and 99 per cent of attending supporters also watch games on

the television. Now, in early January, the Christmas tree stands as bare as the rest of the season before bottom of the table like points dropped over the festive season. And as you swear your centreforward fell from a cheap should come from a local firm cracker, just remember, there and any cash should only be is always the new year sales.

3.0 uniess state

TODAY

L Aston Villa v Net 2 Blackburn v Covernry... 4 Liverpool v West Ham

5 Middlesbrough v Southampton 6 Nottingham Forest v Chelsea . 7 Sheffield Wednesday v Eventon... 8 Sunderland v Arsenal

Newcastle

Last season: 1-1

Last season: 0-0

20 Roumemouth v Rotherham 21, Bristol City v Burnley .. 22 Bury v Walsall ... 23 Chesterfield v Bristo! Rovers. 24 Galingham v Stockport 25 Milwall v Preston . 26 Plymouth v Crewe . 27 Watford v Shrewsbury... 29 Wycombe v Peterborough

41. Hearts v Celtic ...

42 Kılmamock v Rəith First Division 44 Clydebank v St Mirren 46 Morton v East Fife... Second Division 48 Berwick v Dumberton

Stenhousemuir v Livingston

Last season: Did not play

40 Dunfermline v Dundee Utd...

TEAM SHEET Liverpool v Leicester **West Ham**

Villa defender Southgate is poised to Firtcroft and Marker compete to re-return from an ankle injury. Draper, place the suspended McKinlay. Oth-out after a hernia operation, will be erwise, Blackburn will be unchanged. replaced by Johnson or Curcic. Man- Dublin warts to hear whether he will suspended Lee while Ferdinand is Coventry's attack to cover for Whedoubtful. ageriess Newcastle will be without the be switched from defence back into

Coventry

Middlesbro v 🎨 Southampton 🥌

Last season: 5-1

Last five League matches: Aston Last five League matches: Black-Villa WWLDD, Newcastle LDUWW burn DLWDW, Coventry WWWWD

Nttm Forest v (2)

Last five League matches: Mid-Last five League matches: Forest diesbrough DLWLL. Southampton LWLDW, Chelsea LWWDW LLWIL

Clough lineligible for last weekend's

Middlesbrough defender Vickers has
FA Cup win over ipswch) is expectrecovered from a knee injury. The
Saints may give goalkeeper Taylor, a of Phillips or Allen. Chelsea playerE500,000 signing from Barnet, his
debut. Neilson returns in defence but
Injury after standing on a goalpost durlook and Orden are still but Dodd and Dryden are still out.

> Wimbledon v Derby

ast season: Did not play Wimbledon will be unchanged with Holdsworth still on "leave". McGrath returns to the Derby defence in place of Stimac, Darryl Powell is also likely to start.



injury. Lexester midfielder Lennon his unexpected comeback at Mid-starts a two-match ban, while flu vic-tims Parker and Hill face late tests. his unexpected comeback at Mid-dlesbrough. Bowen, Lazandis, Bilic and Newell all return for West Ham. Sheff Wed v

Everton Last five League matches: Wednesday WDDDD, Everton WDLLL

Carbone faces a two-morth lay-off af-ter a grown operation but Collins and Hirst are back in the Wednesday and Grant should be fit, but Parkin-

Tottenham v

Last season: 4-1 Last five League matches: Tottenham WDDWL, Menchester Utd DWWWD Nielsen (flu) has joined Tottenham's sick list but hersen has recovered from the bug. Swiss sweeper Ramon Vega is set for his debut. Fox is a doubt after twisting an ankle. United have recalled Cooke from Birmingham because of a lack of full-backs, Irwin and Phil Neville are ruled out, but May is available.

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK Third Division

Tengents Scottish Cap East Stirling v Brora Rangers ..

- Albion Rovers v Alloa

- Forfar v Queen's Park

Ross County v Montrose* Of Spartans v Arbroath (2.0) Strannaer v Inverness Cai Thistle... - Whitehill v Queen of the South (2.0) Playing Monday

TOMORROW FA Carling Premiership Tottenham v Manchester Ltd (4.0) ... Nationvide Football League First Division

Walves v West Bromwich (2.10) Bell's Scottish League Rangers v Aberdeen (3.0).

Off Matches postponed (frozen pliches). Other matches are subject to prich in-spections this morning – please check.

Last season: 2-0 Last five League matches: Leeds DDLLL, Leicester WDLDD Last five League matches: Liver DDLLL, Leicester WDLDD pool WDDWL, West Ham LDLWL Molenaar, a £1m buy from Dutch club
Nolendam this week, could make his
debut as Leeds are lacking six defendfrom flu, but Redknapp is not yet fit ers. Sharpe may return after a groin and Rob Jones will be rested after

> Sunderland v **Arsenal**

ast season: Did not play Last five League matches: Sur derland WLWLD, Arsenal DLDDW

Sunderland give a Premiership debut to 19-year-old midfielder Williams, a £50,000 signing from York. New Swedish defender Enksson will be on fenders Unsworth and Phelan return the bench. Seaman, after 10 games out, and Platt return for Arsenal.



frightening.
They even took my belt

and shoes off, anything I could hang myself with. It starts with nicking things but you don't know where it ends up. I was mixing with the wrong people, maybe I would've ended up in

esting people at Birmingham, too. The squad reads like a rogues' gallery: Martin Kuhl. Robert Hopkins, Andy Harford, Pat Van Den Hauwe, Mick Dennis, Noel Blake. Many of these were only a few

Long-term, Dicks is looking to expand his interest in dogs, having recently gained planning he is grateful for a four-wheel to Canada: It would be great to live out in the middle of nowhere with no one around, no one to bother you."

First there is rescuing the Hammers, again, "We've been playing well but not scored enough goals – and, to be fair, we've let a few silly ones in."

And a closing thought: "It would have been nice to have played 20 or 30 years ago. You could get away with murder Kennedy, Tony Coton, Mick then, elbow people, everything. The game's changing for the worse.

Nice bloke to talk to, but I him.

"I was going round with the Terminator: The Julian Dicks Story by Kirk Blows (Polar Publishing, £9.99.)

Stakes are high for Montevideo match *

Uruguay and Argentina renew one of international football's oldest and most bitter rivalries in Montevideo tomorrow when they meet in a World Cup qualifying match for the first time. The stakes, always high when

the old foes come face to face. have been raised even further by the indifferent form of the two teams in the South American World Cup qualifying group. Only a few years ago both

would have been expected to waltz through the nine-team group in which the top four qualify for the World Cup finals. But this time they find themselves slugging it out with the likes of Peru. Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay for a place in France - and neither can afford any more slip-ups. Argentina are third but only

three points separate them from eighth-placed Bolivia. Uruguay are level on points with their neighbours but two places below on goal difference.

bia, who do not play tomorrow. Argentina have already lost to Ecuador and been held at home by Paraguay and Chile. Uruguay have lost away to Chile and at home to Paraguay. The Uruguay coach, Juan Ahuntchain, who took over after Hector Nuñez was sacked in

the wake of a 1-0 defeat in Chi-

le, said he had still not decided

on the team. The veteran Enzo

Both sides are eight points behind the group leaders, Colom-

Francescoli, a survivor of the 1986 World Cup, is likely to play even though he is not fully fit. "The only thing that interests us is to win," the striker Daniel Fonseca, who plays for Roma, said. "If we do it playing well. that's well and good but the only thing that really matters for Uruguay at the moment is the

A sell-out 70,000 crowd is expected at Punta del Este's Centenario stadium, the venue of the first World Cup final in 1930.

Grobbelaar 'confident'

Bruce Grobbelaar spoke yes terday of how much football means to him as he prepared to play for his country in a World Cup qualifier - just two days before the start of his trial on match-fixing charges.

The Plymouth Argyle goalkeeper's next appearance in England will be at Winchester Crown Court on Tuesday, when he will answer charges that he accepted bribes to fix matches. He will be in goal for Zimbabwe against Togo in Harare to-morrow, but the court case, inevitably, is on his mind.

There are things that have happened that people will realise at the end of the day what the real story is, and it will all come out in court. I am very confident," the 39-year-old former Liverpool and Southamp-

"Foothall for me is like a release, an escape. I can come out and play the sport that I love playing, and if you're getting paid for playing sport you must play it with a smile on your face."

Grobbelaar said the case had put his family under "a hell of a lot of pressure" and contributed to his father's death. "No one can tell me his death wasn't caused by this. It's very hard, but life goes on. I'm strong

enough - I can shut it out." Also in action tomorrow is the Leeds United striker Tony Yeboah, who plays for Ghana against Morocco in Accra despite only just having to returned to action after a knee injury.

"It's a life or death matter. 4. Yeboah said. "It must be won at all cost. If it means I have to play with one leg, I will do so

Donnell

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SATURDAY II JANUARY by

sport

Orient's groundsman has no such luxuries: if he needs to water the Brisbane Road pitch he asks the local fire brigade to pop in

Kevin Keegan may have been feeling the pressure in recent weeks, but

FA Cup third round wasn't completed until the end of March, delaying the perhaps we should spare a thought for the groundsmen who've been feeling under the weather ever since Britain's sporting calendar first fell

hostage to the elements. It's not just football which has suffered; the British Horseracing Board estimates that racecourses have lost around £3m of income. But it's ironic that football, which is so powerful as to dictate our heroes, our memories and our emotions, is still bought to its knees by the most basic element of all. Lady Luck may have a big part to play in football,

but Mother Nature likes her say too. Although several more weekends (not to mention the rest of the week) would be wiped out to make this the worst winter on record - that distinction belongs to 1963-64 when the Britain than these.

final by a fortnight - this has been one hell of a winter of discontent. Not only has it given the lower division clubs a financial headache but it's caused further conflict between managers and referees. Wrexham's Cup tie with West Ham may have given Hugo Porfirio his first experience of football on snow, but referee Mike Reed would have got an even frostier reception from Harry Redknapp had Porfirio

injured himself in the process. There was a certain Irish logic in the words of the commentator who described the Racehorse Ground as being "insulated with a layer of snow". To paraphrase Brian Clough, if God had meant football to be played in the snow, he'd have bestowed more Arctic conditions on

But to criticise the pitch is not to underrate the efforts of the Wrexham groundstaff who worked wonders in preparing it as best they could. As did the Old Trafford groundsman the following day - at least according to Martin Tyler on Sky Sports. It made Charlie Haslem chuckle. "No sour grapes," says Haslem, who has been Leyton Orient's groundsman for 21 years, "but he just had to set his dials, check his thermometer, then put his feet up. And at Chelsea they've got 23 miles of undersoil heating...

Haslem has no such luxuries: no underground heating, no tractors, no sprinkling. If he needs to water the Brisbane Road pitch he asks the local fire brigade to pop in. Which just makes the fact that the O's went 10 years, from 1983-1993, without a single postponement, and have had just one November game called off this Olivia Blair



season – even more remarkable. Haslem says his secret is "fairy dust... I have a drop of Scotch then breathe on it. Scriously, I work my damnedest to get it ready. After every game we're straight out there to replace all the divots but we don't have a roller: I'm the heaviest person who walks on it. We're lucky there's so much grass, it's formed a barrier against the frost. But our success counts against us 'cos they think we don't need better equipment."

Apparently the cold weather makes the grass "bleed", rendering it an anaemic off-white colour. But Haslem maintains that people get hung up on the state of the grass. "You can have beautiful grass but a bumpy pitch, the priority is to get it flat. But it's horses for courses: at West Ham they have short grass 'cos they like to play it on the ground. I remember when Tommy Taylor was a player here, he liked the grass long, so I'd say. Here, Tommy, I've left the grass nice and long for you,' and he'd say 'Terrific'. Our striker Billy Jennings liked it short so I'd tell him it was short

working all hours in all kinds of weather. Haslem hasn't has a break in five years, while Les Simmons, who goes out to grass this season after 30 vears as Watford's head groundsman, has taken just five holidays in that time. If Simmons has his way, there'd be no football played on his pitch at all. He says it "breaks my heart when I see them kicking lumps out of my

By that Simmons means goalkeepers who mark their areas, of whom "that bloody Shilton" was the worst. According to Haslem, Shilts is still up to his old tricks at Orient "but I let him off 'cos he's getting old." But don't expect Haslem and his fellow groundsmen to show such leniency to the rest of the goalkeeping fraternity. The subject of keepers digging their heeks in was top and he stopped straight away.

Groundsmen are a strange breed: of the agenda at a recent seminar or ganised by the Premier and Football League's Playing Surfaces Committee where it was decided that the only solution to the problem was to fine a manager £500 for his keeper's action. Apparently, marking the pitch is a bookable offence, but when referee Mike Reed claimed that "it usually happens when we're not looking", he incurred the wrath of over 100 irate groundsmen.

They didn't exactly come at him waving pitchforks, but these groundsmen certainly don't let the grass grow under their feet when provoked. Tom Porter, who tends the turf at Roker Park, was recently so incensed by a keeper digging trenches in his pitch that he rushed on brandishing a spade. "I told him he would make a better job of digging up the pitch -

Little warns of a Geordie backlash

Graham Fenton and Alan Shearer, Frank Clark and Steve Stone. There were times during Newcastle's bitter spring when it seemed that Geordies were queuing up, albeit with heavy hearts, to bar their way to the championship.

Now, as Newcastle face life after Kevin Keegan, first in line to rub salt in their wounds is a self-confessed boyhood fan, Brian Little. The Aston Villa manager was quick to warn against a backlash by the Newcastle players after this week's events, but his team may never have a better opportunity to break a sorry sequence.

In seven meetings during the Keegan era, Villa managed a solitary draw. Adding intrigue to a spicy plot, Newcastle's acting co-manager, Arthur Cox, performed the same role at Villa as long ago as 1968, while Tommy Johnson Newcastle-born and bred, is in line for a recall.

There were some, this correspondent included, who argued that Keegan would have done better to spend the St James' millions on Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu than on Shearer. Southeate is set to return, in opposition to his England capmassive game, one to sort the Arsenal are past masters at de- art Pearce, caretaker incumbent winners from the losers".

Roy Evans to suggest that for could well have a significant imevery 12 months in the job, a pact on the title race. manager aged three years. While Liverpool still lead the table, their current form is as grey as the Evans barnet. Five FA Cup victory. By further gan, Pearce also has to play.

Celtic face Hearts at Tynecas-tie today seeking a third victo-ry in eight days, which would cut

the gap on Rangers to eight points before Walter Smith's

side face Aberdeen tomorrow.

out reply since losing to Rangers on 2 January and their

manager, Tommy Burns, has

hailed the contribution of mid-

fielder Phil O'Donnell, who

has returned after four months

out with a calf injury.

Celtic have hit 11 goals with-

Premiership games bring together old friends and foes. Phil Shaw reports

points out of 12 over Christmas was followed by Wednesday's exit from the Coca-Cola Cup at Middlesbrough.

Victory at home to West Ham, who have won one in 12, ought to be within the compass of any side challenging for the title. But with Liverpool's resources stretched and Harry Redknapp's a resilient draw at Wrexham, another attritional afternoon is in prospect at Anfield.

If familiarity breeds con-tempt there should be no love lost at either Roker Park or White Hart Lane. Sunderland and Arsenal, who drew in the FA Cup at Highbury and replay on Wednesday, also meet today when it is again the Wearsiders' good fortune to avoid the suspended Ian Wright.

The wry amusement Wearside is bound to feel over the plight of the grieving Magpies ought to contribute to an unbeat atmosphere on the Premierflating such moods, however, at Nottingham Forest. The pro-Keepan's departure prompted and David Seaman's return

O'Donnell praised by Burns

once he got a regular run in the

tremendous lung capacity for getting up and down the pitch."

Brian O'Neil, Andreas Thom

Burns is without Alan Stubbs,

coincidence they also contested N17's first fixture of 1996, Spurs' 4-1 success being their only win in the 14 meetings. On that occasion Peter Schmeichel played half the game carrying an injury and William Prunier made a second and last ap-

This time it is Spurs who field

Alex Ferguson is repeatedly told be lacks someone in the Steve Bruce mould, yet United have kept five successive clean sheets. Recent evidence, notably the continuing lack of what Peter Swales used to call repartee between Andy Cole and Eric Cantona, suggests that lack of striking power is more likely to cost them their title than

Talking of pressure in mantracted takeover struggle at the City Ground prevents his spending 60p, let alone £60m, a situa-Tottenham and Manchester tion which could lead to angry United also resume hostilities supporters' protests at the game tomorrow, a week after United's with Chelsea. And unlike Kee-

pearance for United.

an unfamiliar foreign centreback, Switzerland's Ramon Vega. Welcome though the arrival of any international must be, Gerry Francis' critics may take some persuading that the heart of the defence was a selection options enhanced since priority, particularly after the arrival of John Scales. Nor. one suspects, would they have been enamoured of the manager's view that Vega was "in the Tony Adams mould".

defensive failings.

Ronnie Irani bowling for England against a New Zealand Academy XI at New Plymouth yesterday. The match was rained off

Indoor tournaments attract top players

BILL COLWILL

Sensibly, indoor hockey dominates the scene this weekend, with the preliminary rounds of the English Club Championship taking place at East Grinstead and in Worcester to find the last six for the National Finals at Crystal Palace on 7 February. The defending champions Old Loughtonians, St Albans and the home side are likely to

team five games ago," Burns said of O'Donnell, who was capped once by Scotland in 1993. "We always hoped he would show this sort of form is our duty," Burns added. go through from East Grinstead although Reading, with Britain's goalkeeper Simon Mason The veteran Hearts striker side. He hasn't looked the John Robertson, who has a on parade, could cause a surslightest bit tired and he has a habit of scoring against Celtic, prise. At Worcester, the current goes into the match two short of Jimmy Wardhaugh's Scottish outdoor leaders Cannock, with the high-scoring Bobby Crutch-ley in their squad, look the only League record of 206 goals for certainties to make progress.

The enterprising Glasgow City Council's World Cities Indoor Championship today and tomorrow at Kelvin Hall is likely to be a sell-out with BBC Scotland cameras covering the final. With four national squads, including Scotland representing Glasgow, playing as part of the build-up for the European Cup

fierce. The Scottish champions Menzieshill, from Dundee, provide five of the Glasgow squad, including their captain, John Christie. Madrid, the Spanish representatives, include nine of their Olympic silver medal side and are the favourites for the final, probably against Glasgow, although Johannesburg could create a surprise.

in Lievin next weekend, the

competition is going to be

Leopards and Sharks face fixture pile-up

Basketball

Sheffield Sharks and the Leopards, who meet in next weekend's National Cup Final, have to fit in three more games each before then as the demands of the Budweiser League and League Trophy gather pace, writes Richard Taylor. Leopards must bounce back

from a 17-point defeat against London Towers tonight when they face Thames Valley Tigers, who want the former Derby and Hemel American, Jason Siemon. Sheffield are away at Leices-

ter City Riders, whose coach, Bob Donewald, has stripped their veteran guard Gene Waldron of the captaincy after the club ended a run of seven defeats with victory at Crystal Palace.

Criticised Radford backed by athletes

Athletics

Peter Radford was given a vote of confidence yesterday by the British Athletes' Association. who went against the tide of criticism of the governing body's executive chairman. The head of the British Ath-

letic Federation had come under increased pressure from some quarters since he sacked his public relations officer, Tony Ward. There have been hints that a motion of no confidence will be put down at the federa-

tion's annual meeting in March. The newly formed athletes' body has supported Radford in his attempts to reshape the sport nationally. "It is so easy to throw stones," said Geoff Parsons, a full-time director of the associ-

ation who with Black negotiated a power-sharing deal with Radford and the federation. These critics are fighting re-gional battles. We fully support what Peter and his professional staff are trying to do on behalf of British athletics as a whole."

The BAF has lost £750,000 in the last two years and their finance director. Steve Gledhill, is leaving for a job in industry. Mike Winch, a former international shot putter who sits on the federation's council, is among the critics. He said on Radio 5 Live: "The sport is falling to pieces. You see the quality of major meetings dropping, coach-es and officials leaving and a re-

duction in the number of youngsters entering meetings." Radford said: "From where I sit I don't see the bleakness."

Lehman in form at start of season

Nick Faldo shot an opening round of 72 yesterday to lie six shots off the pace set by the Open champion, Tom Lehman, at the Mercedes Championships in Carlsbad, California.

Lehman's six-under-par 66 left him a stroke ahead of fellow Americans Paul Goydos and Jim Furyk, while at threeunder were Fred Couples, Guy Boros and Justin Leonard. Tiger Woods led a group of

eight players on 70.
The Mercedes is the opening event in the USPGA Tour's season, with the 32 winners of 1996 tournaments making up the

Lehman is playing as though there was no two-month gap since the last official event, the Tour Championship, which he won by six strokes. "I started slow and didn't feel really fo-

slow and didn't feel really focused," he said, "but I made a bogey on the fifth hole and that got me back into the competitive mode and I made seven birdies in 13 holes."

"The key to the round was that I didn't expect too much of myself. I didn't practice that much during the off season. There was no pressure to play well, no huge expectations but once you start making a few putts the hole starts looking bigger and it all gets a bit easier."

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Basketball Baskethall

NBA: Tourno 110 Utah 95; Minnesota 110 New
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THARSDAY'S LATE MESILTE: Men's Eurol negue
second preliminary rounds Group E: Cherlerol
(8e) 63 Sudanel Maler 72; Obyronialco (5); 82
CSKA Miscore 51: Aha Berlin 70 Miscoreb 16; Av
65. Group P. Ulice Spor (fur) 73 Chores Zageta
(Crop) 77; Perlinnos (6n) 72; Teamsystem Bologha
88; Limoges 91. Estudiantes Medrid 55; Group E:
Dynamo Miscore 88; Parasthrellos (6n) 81;
eroup Nt Bettelore 73 Kinder Bologha 72; Spir
76 Pertzan Betgrade 75.

Cricket

Cricket

Brian Lars hit a stylish century to lead
West Indies to victory over Pakistan by
five wickets in Perith yesterday,
WORLD SERIES IRANABLUAR LIMITED OVERS
COMPETTION (Perth): Pakissan 257 for 7 (50)
over; fax Ahmed 94, Mohammed West 153,
West Indies 258 for 5 (48.4 overs 8 C Less 103no,
J R Murray 62), West Indies won by five wickets. Standinge: 1 West Indies (P 6, Pis 8); 2
Pakissan (6-6); 3 Austraha (6-4).
SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Second day of four) Sydneys New South West 215 and 153 for A (R Dayson 79no). Western Australia 244 (B Hogg
59, 8 McNemas 5-75), Mathourser Victors
174 for 6 (3 Winger) (25, Pissanaka 358 for 7 face 10
Mersh 97, D Boon 75, M Atherson 50no, Shieladde (first days); South Austrika 233
for 5 (D Lehmann 165no, J Stotons 61, M Faus
50) v Queensland.
ONE DAY TOUR MATCH (Ginsberley, SA, Thursday); Groupsked West 205 for 7 (50 overs); H
Bernard 54, W M Dry 72); India 208 for 3 (344
overs; IS Gargaly 101; S R Ternaster 51), India
won by seven wickets.
SUPERSPORT SERSES (Flest day of a four) Conturbox Northern Terrascal 191 for 3 (Siase Semmerute Conto) v Border.

Football Malcolm Allen, the 29-year-old former Wales and Newcastle striker who retired from the professional game lest summer because of injury, is to sign for the League of Wales club Aberystwyth Town.

the Edinburgh club.

"He has been sensational and Peter Grant as Celtic look

since he came back into the for a first victory of the season

The former British Open champion, Ian Baker-Finch, failed to make the half-way cut in his comeback tournament yes-terday after a second round of two-over-par 74 in the Victorian Open.

par 74 in The Victorian Upen. Victorian second-round scores (Aus unless status: 136 S Isanay 44 72. 138 E Walters 69 99. 139 P Barnaloy 71 58: R Pemping 71, 68: T Pute 68 71. 140 D Chopin (Seve 71 69; R Bagin 74 64; S Tatt 67 72: S Coline 69 71. Selected: 141.5 Capi (68) 72 69: 6 Server (68) 71. 70. 143 P Fulle (Swi) 72 71; J Nisson (Swi) 74 69; P Deverport (N2) 65 77. 146 B Jackson (68) 72 74, Withdraw: M Carver (68) 76.

M Caver (GB) 76.

MERCEDES CHAMPIONSHIP (Carlsbad, California) Leading first-round scores (BS unless stated): 66 T Lettman, 67 P Goydos, J Fuyl, 69 G Bons; J Leonary, F Couples, 70 T Woods; J Cook S Jones; T Wetson; C Parin, P Stanfownt; S McCamro, D Lose, 71, M Bradey; E Fort; D Hart: C Rose; L Roserts: C Stadler; P Michelon; M O'Merta, 72 E Es (SA); S Stricker; N Feldo (Eng; M Books, 73 F Furl; T Herron, 74 W Wood, 75 S Hoch, 78 D A Wesbung.

ice hockey MHL Boston 5 Montreal 4: Colorado 2 Otawa C; Tempa Bay 3 Philadelphia 1: Washington 2 NY Rangers C; Detroit 5 Phoenix 4 (ot): Calgary 3 Har-ford 2: Los Angeles 6 Buffalo 3; St Louis 4 San SUPERLEAGUE: Newsastle Cobras 1 Notorigisam Parthers C; Cardiff Dayls 3 Sheffield Stociets 2

Rallying
PARS-DAVAR RALLY Seventh stage (361los, Mension to Tahoua); Carx: 1 J-P Fonteray (Fr) Mension to Tahoua); Carx: 1 J-P Fonteray (Fr) Mension 7x 20mn 31scc 2 K Shrousia (180m) Mittahish 429:1 Desart Joseph 420-47; 5 H Massion Liagari) Mittahish +28:10 Desart John (180m) Mittahish +28:10 Desart John (1814) Shriptish 30:35:38; 2 Fonteray +21scc; 3 Saly (5:14; 4 Massion +1:48:25, Mittanglets; 1 Solito (5p) Capes 3m Salm (15se; 2 D Castera Fr) Yamaha +3:03; 3 T Magnahi, (Fr) KIM +3:17; 4 O Gelatron (5p) Capha +4:01; 5 S Pateriareal Fr) Yamaha +4:57, Owent Jahochiger; 4 Peterhariad (32m 23mn) 03sec; 2 Arcarray +1:20:49; 3 Gallardo +2:05:17; 4 Lewis +2:15:46.

Rugby Union

The New Zealand provincial team Ota-go yesterday had to give up the first game of their nine-match tour of Britain game of their nine-match tour of Britain because of the weather. They were due to play Bedford under floodigits at Goldington Road next tuesday, but the ground is so badly affected the game has been canceled. Otago are on a warm-up tour for the Supen-12 which starts in March. OF THE SUPER-12 WITCH SHARTS IN MERCH.
OTABO TOUR ITHERARY: 18 Jan v Centhode Unviersity, George Road, 28 v London Irsh, 28 v Scotcish Development XV, 31 v England A, 4 Fab v Both,
8 v Porrepried, 11 v Northamptor, 13 v Richment,
SCOTLAND IMDER-21 (v Wales Under-21's,
Golddensore, Frideryt C Turnbull (Houset), D Ball
(Edinburgh Academicsis), D Alahett (Tanggor Academicsis), 3 Mayer (Microsinstra, I A Microsin (Goroughmust), 6 Ross (Henot's FP), 6 Beverläge

Biomugirmum: S Lithgtow (Dundoe HSFP), A Mel-eon (String County), J Kelly (Lindon Scotish), A Lacking (Currel), I Fallerton (Dundoe HSFP), A Cactow (Boroughmun, S Wansh (Boroughmun, capt), I Sincialer (Watsonars), Replacements: S Tomilloson (Belefrit, T Lightholder (String Coun-ty, P Simpson (Edinburg) Academicals, J Osborne (Edinburgh Academicals), J Petrie (Dominiers), P Rizgiarid (Watsoners), C Docherty (GHO.

Table tennis

Usa Lomes, the England No 1, yester-day went out of the first-round third stage of the women's singles in the English Open at Kettering Arena, losing to her Japanese opponent, Michiyo Sasamod, 21-19, 17-21, 25-23, 21-19. Demen Blake, of Surrey, England's only quali-fier from Thursday, was beaten 21-18, 21-15, 15-21, 21-14, in the first ound of the men's shurles hu the Canadian 21.13, 15.21, 21-14, if the first round of the men's singles by the Canadian Francis Trudel.

DIGLISH OPEN (Methering) First round, third stage: Men's singless N Taines (Japan) by M Maze (Den) 21.12.21, 12.1-12. G Franciscon (Nor) in K firsteek (Ling 21.18.21.15.15.21.21.14. Firsteek (Ling 21.18.21.15.15.21.21.14. Firsteek (Ling 21.18.21.15.21.21.14.) 21.14. Firsteek (Ling 21.18.21.15.21.21.14.) 21.

Wind and rain from Cyclone Drena forced the postponement of yesterday's New Zealand Open quarter-finals in Auckland. The organisers now hope to play both the quarter-finals and semi-finals today the quarter-finals and semi-finals today with the final formorous.
STOREY PRIEDNATIONAL TOURNAMENT Hem's elugies, semi-finalet T Herring (GB) to G Nameson (Grou) 4-6 7-6 6-1; C Migas (Sp) to A Costral (Sp) 3-6 6-3 7-6, Men's doubles, quarter-finalst; I Lobo (Arg) and J Sanchez (Sp) to J Eagle and A Floren (Aus; 7-6-6, Semi-finalst; P-badrus and J Sementik (Nett) to I, Priek (Ba) and B Talbot (SA) 7-5 6-7 1-5. Lobo and Sanchez to N Goolen are G Stafford (SA) 6-2-3-6 7-5. Women's Singles, semi-finalst; J Copnen (US) the L Desempor (US) 6-3-6-2. Whites (Sen) to M J Fernandez (US) 6-3-6-2. Wessen's

SPORTING DIGEST

TASMARBAN WORLEN'S BITERNATIONAL (Ho-hart) Singles, secol-finals; M Wardel-Worneyer (US) bt E Calleris (Bel) 6-3 6-0; D Van Roost (Bel) tri M Endo (Japan) 6-3 6-4.

CLS) to E. Calleris (Bell 6-3 B-0; D. Van Roost (Bell to M. Erdo (Japon) 6-3 B-4.

ALISTRALIAN OPEN DRAW (Malbourne, starting Monday) Singles, first round (seeds in capitals) Merc P. SAMPRAS (US v qualifier, A Voinea (Romby) Singles, first round (seeds in capitals) Merc P. SAMPRAS (US v) qualifier, A Voinea (Romby N. M. Edward (Mars) H. Marco (Mar), T. Corbonell (Startoytchev (Burl), S Stolle (Mas) v D Hosper (Sup), Stonley (Mas) v D Wacek (C. Repl), B Larkman (Aus) v A BERMASTEGUI (Sp.). A COSTA (Sp.) v P Rotter (Mas), J Voineak (Sh.) A COSTA (Sp.) v P Rotter (Mas), J Voineak (Sh.) A COSTA (Sp.) v Rotter (Mas), J Voineak (Sh.) A Rodding (Mars) v S Droper (Mars), F France (Arg.), C COSTA (Sp.) v F EMPCA (SA), G NAMISENC (Crod) v B Elwood (Aus), P Hospitas (Moth) v K (Moren (Shoush), qualifier v) T Noinea (Ed.) C Rusol, Marson (Sh.), P Rotter (Sp.), V S Dockel (Ed.) v S Challes (Mas), J Clatter (Mas), v S Challes (Mas), J Challes (Mas), P Hospitas (Moth), Qualifier v P F Hospitas (Rotter) v S Dockel (Cz Rep), M Rossett (Sard v J Santhez (Sp.), J Tampig (US) v Q Unalifier, P P Fleuman (P) v H Maso (Mor), qualifier v Q Lussier, P P Fleuman (P) v H Maso (Mor), qualifier v S Dockel (Carl), B BCORR (Ger) v C Moya (Sp.), P McEnno (US), v O Ohnsolog (Mas), J Doné (Mas) v M McDistar Són (Swe), F MANTILLA (Sp) v G Resectiv (GS), D Protoci (Ger) v F Masigan (Br), A Boetsch (Fr) v qualifier. J P College (GS), D Protoci (Ger) v F Masigan (Br), A Boetsch (Fr) v qualifier. J R Carlothev v

TODAY'S NUMBER

900,000

The number of tickets for the 1998 World Cup finals that have been sold since they went on sale to the French public six weeks ago. The French football federation have bought a further 335,000 and sponsors 170,000.

T Woodondgo (Aus.), S Simen (Fr) v G Blanco (Sp), S Sengsian (Arm) v M Ondruska (SA), quelifier v M Washington (US), T BY(MST (Swe) v N Previa (Ven), B Steven (NZ) v R Fromberg (Aus.), quelifier v S Bruguera (Sp), M Lasson (Swe) v J A Viloco (Sp), quelifier v G Scheller (Aut.), qualifier v A Correja (Sp), M logo (US) v R Carecteo (Sp), P Korda (CZ Rep) v M ROS (Chriet, M STICH (Ger) v P Fredriksson (Swe), T Charmoton (Fr) v A Moovedov (Uv.), qualifier v qualifier, D Van Scheppingen (Nethi v B Back, Czmi, G Raciu, (Fr) v D Nestor (Can), M Prabocovisse (Lau) v T Herman (GB), R Reneberg (US) v M Zaboleta (Ang., qualifier v M Carbial (US).
Women: S GRAF (Ger) v J Husarova (Slovald, E

quarrer y M CHANG (US).

Women: S GRAF (Gen v J Husarous (Stovald, E Dominilione: Quasi v J Reland (Lad, i Gornochanga) (ung) v B Stewart (Aus., E Calena (Beh v G Fernance: (US), Lee (US) v B Mule (Stovald, F Zuluaga (Dd) v qualines, J Kandari Ger) v K Negarsula Librani, A Kourhatos (Rus) v A COETZER (SAI, B SCHULTZ-MCCARTHY (Neth) v

Sung-tible Park (S Hort), R Histald Liberari v L Richtenove (Cz Rep), G Leon Gentle (Sp) v h Po (US), C Cristel (Romit) v A Suggerne (Leon), J Taylor (Aus) v M A Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp), T Tanseugern (Thor) v E Maltanove (Rub), h Studenskove (Songali v F Perfett (II), n N Deckly (Fr) v L Deveryori (US), C MARTINEZ (Sp) v M Cremans (Neth), S Dopler (Aus) v A Gera (Cz Rep), P Hy-Goulais (Can) v A Dectroame-Balterst (Fr), n Arenat (US) v h Blooger (Neth), R Garade (II) v A Montoho (Sp), A Grocsman (US) v A Miller (III), h School (Cac) v S APPEL MANS (Bes), E LIDHOVISEVA (Rus) v M Perce (Fr), Li Chen (Christ) v N Medeodese (US), qualifier v M Werdel-Murreyer (US), A Elexod (Aus) v I. No. Net (US), N Febre (Bols) v N Febre (Bols), A Foser (US) v M HIBER (Bon), S Cac (US) v W Procest (Gen), P Santra (Rus), A Foser (US) v A HIBER (Gen), I SPRILIA (Aus), A Foser (US) v A HIBER (Gen), I SPRILIA (Rom) v N Kejmzta (Lapah), J Nuger (Sp) v K Rochwetest (Aus), A Disca (Pol) v S Farins (II), J Rochwetest (Aus), A Disca (Pol) v S Farins (II), J

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'confident'

sport

Back on the water

Exclusive interview with Steve Redgrave in Monday's 20-page Sport section



BBC apologises to Dalglish for Hill comments

Football

ALAN NIXON

Kenny Dalglish was given a grovelling apology by the BBC last night after Jimmy Hill wrote him out of the running for the Newcastle United manag-

The credentials of Dalglish, who guided both Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers to the championship, were questioned by Hill on BBC 2's Spon on Friday programme.

Dalglish should be in the run-

DERRICK WHYTE

upset the world No 3. Goran

Ivanisevic, twice runner-up at Wimbledon, 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 to

qualify for a meeting today

with the Spaniard Carlos Moya,

who caused another surprise by

saving a match point to beat his

third-seeded compatriot Albert

Although Henman's joy may

have been slightly tempered

by the news that he must face

another big server, Australia's

Mark Philippoussis, in the first

round of the Australian Open,

ensured, there was no doubt

that if the 22-year-old Briton

he has been striving to achieve. Henman lost the first set for

third consecutive round but,

once again showed that he re-

fuses to be upset by early set-backs. He took a 3-0 lead in the

second set but Ivanisevic managed to force the set into a tie-

break before starting to lose his

ning for the post left vacant by Dalgish's achievements in man-the resignation of Kevin Kee- agement and said that he re- and the presenter acknowlthe resignation of Kevin Keegan because of his record of suddenly leaving clubs.

Dalgtish is one of several conabout his ability to deal with pressure have been widely voiced. The former Scotland international left Anfield and Ewood Park unexpectedly.

However, a call was made to the BBC demanding that Hill's comments be retracted. Before the end of the programme, the presenter Helen Rollason said Hill cast doubt over whether "sorry" to Dalglish. In a prepared statement, she praised

mains a contender. Hill had left the studio by that point.

The BBC refused to reveal tenders for the post and doubts the identity of the caller. Their sports press officer, Jenny Hickman, said: "The question of whether Kenny called in or not is for him to confirm."

She added: "We hope that the apology for an earlier remark has been accepted. It obviously was not meant to be taken badly. It was just a general discussion about the contenders for Keegan's job. "There were a couple of re-

edged that.

er manager.

sional and if you wanted your son to turn out like any footballer, then he would be the one," he said. "You look at the way he conducts himself both on and off the field and you could

"Peter is a model profes-

Peter Beardsley is the popu-

lar choice among Newcastle supporters to replace Keegan,

which does not surprise Terry McDermott, the joint caretak-

not have a better example."

part of a management team with Bobby Robson as the figurehead. But the Barcelona coach said yesterday he had rejected a five-year contract, for now, after being approached by club of-

ficials in Spain.
"Newcastle are very flattering," Robson said. "It is home, it is a phenomenal club also. with a great wealth of people who are passionate about football. But you can only be in one place at one time.

"I have here a two-year contract which started last August It was a proud and privileged moment for me when I came to that I will remain here. There's great pressure, but I can han-

John Toshack, who coaches Deportivo de La Coruña, also olans to remain in Spain - for the moment at least.

"I have a contract here until-June which I would expect under normal circumstances to fulfill," he said. "But then, to be perfectly honest, I don't know

where I'll be working. be renewing my contract when I finished this season and that's

Barcelona. My thoughts are caused a little bit of upheava here. People are maybe putting two and two together and coming up with five."

Les Ferdinand revealed that the Newcastle players were sur-prised at Keegan's resignation just as the team had come into a rich vein of form. "It was a big shock at first, es-

pecially as things had started to pick up for us," the England striker said. "It was a decision that he had made over the last "I announced earlier this few months, a big decision and week that I probably wouldn't he had decided enough was

Geordie backlash, page 25

Tanner's drug test shows up cocaine

Ipswich Town's Adam Tanner, a highly regarded 23-year-old who can play either in midfield, or defence, faces a long suspension af-ter testing positive for cocaine. He was charged with mis-

conduct by the Football Association yesterday after failing a random test at Ipswich's training ground on 9 December. He has 14 days to respond.

Because cocaine is considered a performance-enhancing drug, the FA has a tougher range of punishments they could impose on Tanner.
"We are in constant touch

with the FA over drug issues and the first step we always try to take is to do all we can to help rehabilitate the player concerned," said Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association. "It is only when the player is unwilling to help himself that punitive action is considered and taken against first-time offenders.

"But although there is a desire to help players, it must also be realised that there is a grading of penalties and these increase when the drug in question than purely social." The last high-profile cocaine

user, Orient's Roger Stanislaus, banned by the FA for a year last season and then sacked by the London club. The Charlton teenager Jay

Noticy is the only other player known to have tested positive this season out of over 300 samples, the FA doping control unit exposing a cocktail of cocaine, Ecstasy and cannabis. He has so far been treated le-

niently because of his age, the FA sending him to a rehabilitation centre for assessment, and he is due to face a further hearing in March. Tanner cannot expect such leniency, given his experience and profile, although Ipswich have promised to stand by him throughout the ordeal. The Ipswich chairman, David

Sheepshanks, only yesterday elected as chairman of the Football League, said: "We deplore the use of drugs and Ipswich Town would like to emphasise that we are fully supportive of the stance being adopted by the FA to eradicate it from the sport.

"The player is aware of the damage done both to his reputation and to that of the club and great regret. He has been disciplined by us but now, however, the matter is out of our hands and will be dealt with the FA.

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lordon E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print. St Albans Road, Watford and Hollimmod Avenue, Oldham.



managed to keep my concen- Tim Henman hits a forehand during his semi-final victory over Goran Ivanisevic in Sydney yesterday Photograph: AP

reports from Sydney et in two as Henman raced through the final set.

Henman later admitted he had found it difficult to cope Tim Henman's magnificent run of form shows little sign of abating after the British No 1 celebrated the best win of his ca-

Henman

scales

greater heights

with Ivanisevic's serve early in the match, but his battling qualities shone through and ultireer yesterday by reaching the final of the Sydney Internamately won the day. 'It was a question of hanging in there and keeping the ball in In yesterday's semi-finals he

play," said the world No 24. "In the second set I got an early break and thought that if I could hang onto my serve it would be 1-1. "But I then lost a service

The Croat's head went down

and he incurred a conduct

warning after snapping his rack-

ame and just had to keep fighting. I kept trying to make him play an extra shot to win points and it paid off. I made him work for everything.

"The conditions were pretty blustery, which mean you can't really play very good quality tennis, and in that situation you've just got to concentrate on what you're doing. But in the circan continue to produce this cumstances I think I played well. "In the third

started going a long way ahead, I just had to keep my mind on Ivanisevic was the highestfinishing the job. It was obvious ranked opponent Henman has he was getting frustrated, but I ever beaten, and the victory will lift the Oxfordshire player into the world's top 20, an ambition

"It's easy to let your focus switch to the Grand Slam, but I'm trying to keep my head screwed on and take one match at a time.

"I'm aware I play Philippoussis in the Australian Open and he's a very good player. But I'm in Sydney now and I don't want to concentrate on Melbourne until next week.

After winning the shoot-out If Henman beats Philip-7-1. Henman quickly got on top poussis and wins his secondof a match played in blustery conditions and Ivanisevic, round match, he is likely to whose temperament has long been suspect, finally exploded. come up against the second seed, Michael Chang.

Although Henman beat the form against big servers, beat-20-year-old Philippoussis in last year's Sydney International, the Australian possesses possibly the fastest serve in the world and if he is on form, he can be dev-

The Aussie will also be the crowd favourite and has pediee in the tournament too, having last year accounted for top seed and world No 1, Pete Sampras, in straight sets in the third round. But Henman has shown good

ing Ivanisevic yesterday and his compatriot Greg Rusedski twice last year.

In addition, Philippoussis has been suffering an arm injury and with his current form Henman has a good chance to progress beyond the first round.

Last week the Briton reached the final of the Qatar Open in Doha, his first ATP Tour final. but lost to the American Jim Courier in three sets

DOWN

Small bug for hearing? Sign of an office bug? (7)

Concerned with drink and fish. lacking flavour

Note about guy's family

Measures slate, finding

Like a vault party on the

Last straw shattered the

party faithful (9) Work with drill piercing

spout (7) Beg with dish, reduced

to a vagrant ultimately

carved in charms (7)

exciting (7)

mate (7)

Word in Spain I have for

Complete a spelling ses-

European engrossed by

monetary angles (5)

it's standard (9)

drink? (5)

has now made it to his second Australian Open as they face up ATP Tour final and faces a player whom he beat last year.

Meanwhile, Rusedski has an equally difficult first-round match in the Australian Open, against clay-court specialist Felix Mantilla, of Spain. Mantilla, seeded 14, is an excellent stroke player and his ground-

strokes may be too good for Rusedski if the Briton's serve is not on top form.

Bookmakers have slashed Seven days later Henman Henman's odds of winning the wins at Wimbledon."

to a massive pay-out if the British player triumphs.

A Ladbrokes spokesman, Ian Wassell, said: "This is another tremendous step forward for Henman. He need fear nobody in the Australian Open after his fantastic start to e year.
"Ladbrokes are already fac-

ing a £100.000 pay-out if Henman wins the Aussie Open and I dread to think how much if he



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ACROSS

1 In the main one gets en- 1 gulfed in a wet sort of Group, a girl's set (7) Chars badly – i.e. in fire

10 State home accommodating one? Couldn't be tighter (7)

Put weight on? (9) Fabricate or be evasive 13 Provide income, mea-

15 Revolting chap is run out at the start (9) 17 Just the place for an orb and sceptre? Well, one 14 Rode (apparently) with Jesse James? (9)
16 Scrape post (9)
17 Head of Egyptian insect

sure almost fully paid

of them! (3,6)
19 Over the odds in bluff 22 Gathering, without Right whip (5)

23 Make canal have dramatic fall (9) 25 Elegant yellow unknown 20

sion? (7)
21 Play Queen in particular plant (7) 26 Set apart one pan containing duck (7) Appoint deputy, last to

probe vice (5,2) 24 In the company of a cat Bridge players confined, rendered ineffective (7)

without name (5) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Capary What, London E14 5B1. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode, Last week's winners: Victoria Bryant, York: Frank Light, Portheawi; Robin Holt, South Croydon: Mrs V Townsend, Waterlooville; Barry Roe, Wigston.

Cork pleased with progress

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from New Plymouth

New Zealand Academy 201 v Match abandoned

England are planning plenty of hard work for Dominic Cork after his longest break from crick-et since 1991. The Derbyshir. all-rounder returned to active service yesterday, bowling seven overs and picking up one wicket before rain washed out the one-day match against New Zealand's Cricket Academy in New Plymouth.

Cork had not played for four months, following his decision to miss England's visit to Zimbabwe, but, with the opening Test in New Zealand only a fortnight away, he has already been named for Monday's first-class match against a Select XI at Palmerston North - and will probably be on duty when England complete their warm-up programme by meeting Northern Districts in Hamilton next weekend. "This is the longest break I've had from cricket for several years," Cork said, "I would like to play as much as possible now to put myself in

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contention for the first Test." While England badly missed Cork's match-winning potential

in Zimbabwe, the team coach, David Lloyd, believes a decent rest will have done the 25-yearold "the world of good".

A victory yesterday would have been the ideal way for Eng-land to have kicked off here, and they looked well on course after dismissing their hosts for 201. But persistent rain - apparently the forerunner of a cyclone heading this way - forced an abandonment before England could launch their reply.

Andy Caddick was the most successful member of an allseam attack, finishing with three wickets, while Jack Russell - another of the forgotten men in

Zimbabwe - picked up five catches behind the stumps. England won toss

NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY XI

R A Lawson c Russell b Caddick.

M D Bell b Caddick.

"I. G Howells tow b Gough.

C D McMillan c Siverwood b Iran

S Lynch c Russell b Gough.

I'R G Hart b Silverwood.

G R Loveredge c Kright b Caddick.

A Lovere B Dworstl b Caddick. Bowling: Cork 7-0-39-1; Coddick 8-1-44-3; Skrenwood 8-4-0-32-2; Gough 8-0-35-2; yan-9-1-49-2 ENGLAND: "M A Athenton, N V Knight, G P Thorpe, N Hussain, J P Crawley, R C Irani, †R C Russell, D G Cork, A R Coddick, D Gough,

Photograph, page 25

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Government claims war pension victory

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Leaders of the Royal British Legion were upset last night at up the white flag following a meeting with Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, over cuts in war pensions.

The Department of Social Se-

ter saying that they had pre-sented no expert evidence to discredit the medical findings on

which the cuts were based. "They didn't disagree with claims they were ready to run the medical evidence or the legal advice we have taken and they have gone away to think about it. Our position remains unchanged. We have taken medical advice and we are curity caused deep annoyance legally bound to accept it," said at the legion headquarters af-

changed. We had to take it on the chin, but it would not be true to say we have run up the white flag. We will fight on," The Independent has learned that the Royal British Legion had planned to challenge the

medical evidence produced by

The Royal British Legion medical experts to the meeting officially described the meeting as "constructive" but privately with Mr Lilley. However, before the meeting took place, one of one source said: "We had our the key witnesses changed his own medical advice and it mind after consultations with the DSS officials. Yesterday he was in hospital, and out of reach of the Royal British Legion, which is waiting to have further discussion before deciding its next course of action.

into a full scale row involving Tory backbenchers when it was first announced late last year. The row arose when the Gov-

which threatened to blow up

ernment was adviced that deafness could no longer be attributed to gunfire once a serviceman or woman had left the armed services. That resulted in The Government however,

the Government by taking three appeared confident that it had last March, stopping war diswon its battle with the legion, ability payments of £35m a year. Leaked papers, which were obtained by The Independent, showed that Mr Lilley had asked for four further measures to buy off the pensioners' lobby in talks with William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, including making a payment for funeral expenses

for war disablement pensioners

costing £60,000 a year.

sioners were to loose their payments for deafness led to angry clashes in the Commons between Tony Blair, the Labour leader, and John Major, with Tory MPs protesting it was the worst performance they had seen from the Prime Minister in months.

The legion threatened to cause a humiliating climbdown in the cuts, with ex-service

The disclosure that war pen-groups warning that the Gov-ernment would risk a defeat in the Commons, But the measure has been approved by order in council, and is unlikely to be stopped.

There was also a threat that the legion will seek judicial review but last night fory MPs were saying that they were bolding their fire? to see how the legion would react to the



Daydream believers back to pay the alimony and school fees



Louise Jury

The faces are familiar, but the lyrics will have to be changed. All four members of the Monkees, were back together monkeying around for the first time in 30

But with hair greying and laughter lines a little more pronounced, the members of the one-time "young generation" of the six-ties are now all in their fifties.

"Hey, hey, we're the ... " they joked with mock memory-loss.

Yet there are rewards as well as disadvantages to the ageing process. Where in 1966 the Monkees were the creations of television executives eager not for a pop group but a hit series they are the ones in charge.
"We ARE the corporation," mared Pe-

ter Tork, the one with mop hair, with a gi-ant grin. However. Davy Jones, the band's baby-faced lead singer, said it was not the money that mattered. "It's a case of enjoying what we do," he said. "The rewards are quite nice, it's important for alimony and kids' schools, but it's not the main

Billed as America's answer to The Beatles, they recorded 52 episodes of the television series but also sold 16 million albums, 7.5 million singles and notched up hits including "I'm A Believer", "Daydream Believer" and "Last Train to Clarksville", in a 39-month career.

It ended when Mike Nesmith paid see me in the street." Undaunted, he \$160,000 to get out of the group. Though Davy Jones, Mickey Dolenz and Peter Tork have reunited several times since, he had always refused to join in. Until now. He explained his change of heart yes-

terday, at a launch party at the Hard Rock Cafe, central London, saying simply: "I just wanted to get back to playing." Jones, Dolenz and Tork have reformed several times since, and toured Britain

together in 1989, but Nesmith always refused to join them until last striimer when all four got together to record a new album,

We were all right to start with but now we're ferociously good'

Justus, to be released in Britain on 27

On 7 March, they embark on a 10-stop tour of the British Isles and Ireland which continues in America over the summer. And a television special is also to be

Jones, the only British-born member of the quartet, said that despite the height of their fame being 30 years past he was still recognised everywhere he went. "People still sing 'Hey, hey we're the Monkees' if they

hoped the reunion would work out and that they would be seeing the press and public

Tork, jokily claiming the fame and adulation were the hard part, promised they would be much better than before. "We were all right to start with, now we're ferociously good."

Dolenz added: "There are a lot of peo-

ple who have tried to catch the lightning and the bottle again. But it's a very tough job to do and nobody has been successful.

Ward Sylvester, their manager and the producer of the original television series, thought the Monkees reminded people of a certain generation of a happy time in their But as the series was peated, it was still capturing new generations. "They're remarkably evergreen,"

The Monkees only ever played one concert in Britain during their heyday - at the Empire Pool, Wembley, in June. 1967 but there is 300-strong fan club. Kirk White, 44. a London council worker and the club's president, loves everything about them. "The television show, the music - it brings back memories of the Sixties," he said yesterday, after nabbing a few auto-

Another fan, Marcus Szabo, a postman from Chelmsford, Essex, was only a baby when the band split up. They're just cool," he said.

The old men of rock who just can't hang up their guitars

Despite numerous splits and reformations

Asked whether the Eagles would ever reform, Don Henley replied "when hell freezes over" - the name of their latest tour.

from Brian Jones's death in 1969 until

1992, when Bill Wyman left to be replaced

The Rolling Stones The Stones are due to tour the US this year. The nucleus of the band remained

by Darryl Jones.

since 1968, Yes are to go on tour later this year with the line-up which brought the band its years of popularity. Jethro Tuli

Formed in Blackpool in 1967, Jethro Tull were performing right up to the summer of last year, when Ian Anderson collapsed

in Sydney. The Scots-born singer and flute

player tore some cartilage when attempting a wild-man-of-rock leap off a stage in Lima, Peru, and his injuries led to a blood clot which threatened to block

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The Everty Brothers In the early Seventies, Phil Everly vowed never to perform with his brother Don again. But three years ago they made their peace on stage at the Royal Albert Hall.

Spice Girls are animals says the designer who wore no knickers

Michael Streeter

Fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, the one-time Queen of Punk whose eccentric clothes have stunned catwalk audiences all over the world, yesterday savaged the neatly packaged Spice Girls pop group as "animals" with no style. Ms Westwood, who once de-

clared "fashion is about sex", and dressed the Sex Pistols in bondage gear, said that she was morally outraged by the allwoman band, who are currently one of the most popular and influential groups in Britain and much of Europe.

Their dreadful clothes, dreadful look and no style'

"Those Spice Girls have never had any education, they have never been brought up - they have just been allowed to grow up like animals," she said in a television interview. "Their dreadful clothes, their dreadful look and no style. They are just cultivating this attitude that you should push your way to the top - it doesn't matter if you

have talent or not." The designer, who helped to

shape the look of the punk generation of the late Seventies and early Eighties, said that she was appalled at the way the group were being targeted at girls as young as 10. What people are marketing is disgusting behav-iour as a lifestyle. People should be outraged by it. I'm morally outraged by it." she said.

Ms Westwood told presen-ter Carol Smillie on BBC1's chat show Smillie's People:"I call it child molestation. It's corruption. I really want to attack what I think is corrupting the youth."

While many parents of chil-dren obsessed with the Spice Girls may applaud Ms West-wood's outburst, some found her attack on today's generation of pop stars ironic. One pop writer observed: "One can hear the clanging of an elderly pot calling the kettle black."

Ms Westwood's partnership with punk-guru Malcolm McLaren made her a contro-versial figure as she designed clothes for, among others, Johnny Rotten and Adam Ant. Even when she moved into the mainstream and became more acceptable to the establishment, she retained her ability to shock - as when it became apparent that she had not been wearing knickers when she received her OBE from the Queen in 1992.



Shocker: Westwood outside Buckingham Palace

reader of philosophy, was seriously tipped as a possible candidate for the prestigious position of designer for Dior an honour eventually won by fellow Briton John Galliano.

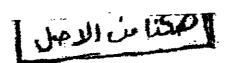
The Spice Girls, whose singles "Wannabe", "Say You'll Be There", and "2 Become 1". have been number one in 30 countries and sold 7 million copies in all, recently grabbed the headlines when - in an in- a foolish old woman about the

Thatcher as their spiritual predecessor. The women, aged 18 to 24, also dismissed John Major as a "boring pillock" - although they declared that they would never vote Labour.

Last night, the band were on holiday but a spokesman for their promoters. Virgin Records, was waspish. "We do not feel it necessary to get dragged into an argument with However, last summer Ms terview in the Spectator maga- greatest new musical talent in Westwood, nowadays a keen zine-they described Baroness the world today."



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news

Edinburgh nets £122m from M&S deal

Nigel Cope

Edinburgh residents are set to receive a late Christmas present from their local council following a major property deal with Marks & Spencer.

M&S announced yesterday that it is paying Edinburgh City Council £122m for the Gyle shopping centre at the western edge of the city. Though the

council has yet to decide how it will spend the money, it is pos-benefit the city and its residents will spend the money, it is posused to finance a cut in the city's council tax bills. The sale would fund a £17 cut in the tax on band-D households. The council is due to discuss the matter next month.

Keith Geddes, the council leader, said: "It remains our or cut council tax bills. priority to make sure that this

sible that the proceeds will be for years to come and, vitally, to minimise the effect on our future revenue."

The sale could signal a new move by local councils to sell shopping centres and other property assets to fund the development of local amenities

Under law, councils are

required to pay 25 per cent of all sale proceeds to reduce borrowings. The figure is set to rise to 50 per cent from 31 March. This is one reason why Edinburgh council was keen to complete the deal promptly.

The council admitted that a council tax windfall was possible but said that education and have already been identified as of the money to create a trust

priorities. Another option being considered is to invest some of the Gyle proceeds in another shopping centre to sow the seeds of a future windfall.

Marjorie Kenny, a spokes-woman for the council, said there were also opportunities to help subsidise the many festivals which Edinburgh supports. She transport were two areas which said the council could use part

fund which would help support events such as the Edinburgh Festival and the Science Festival.

She said the council would be keen to avoid developing amenities that would saddle the council with high future running costs.

Marks & Spencer said it was buying the Gyle centre to gain greater control over the future Completed in October 1993 and

expansion of its store which is attracts around 300,000 visitors the centre's anchor tenant. It every week. There are 65 fresh venture into property development. Though M&S did buy the Brachead centre in Glasgow where it also has a store, it later sold out to the property group Capital Shopping Centres.

said the move did not signal a tenants, with M&S and a Safeway supermarket the largest stores. In December, Edinburgh council had selected the Universities Superannuation Scheme as its preferred bidder to purchase the Gyle centre. However, the major tenants, M&S and Safeway, had a right to match the offer.

Cancer

link at

nuclear

waste

plant

Children who regularly play on a beach near the La Hague nu-

clear reprocessing plant in France are at greater risk of con-

tracting leukaemia according to new research, reviving the de-

bate about the safety of

The study by French scientists

suggests a causal link between environmental exposure to

radiation and childhood

Children who visited beach-

es near the plant at least once

a month showed almost a three-

fold increase in the risk of developing the disease. Eating

local seafood at least once a

week was associated with a

similarly increased risk of leukaemia. The children of mothers who regularly visited

the beaches were also more

La Hague, on the Normandy

coast, is one of only three

likely to have the disease.

Britain's nuclear installations.

Liz Hunt

leukaemia.

Health Editor

Widow's attempt to get by upsets Sir Paul

Marianne Macdonald Arts Correspondent

Sir Paul McCartney yesterday defended his legal bid to stop the widow of his former road manager selling the original lyrics to one of the Beatles' biggest hits

The newly knighted ex-Beatle tried to head off criticism after it emerged that he had prevented Lily Evans, 60, selling the paper on which he had scribbled the words for With A Little Help From My Friends.

She had hoped to raise £60,000 for her old age by selling the paper at Sotheby's, she told a BBC1 Watchdog investigation screened last night.

Her husband Mal had been The Beatles' road manager for many years and had been particularly close to McCartney. But he died in a shooting accident in Los Angeles 21 years ago, leaving her without a pension.

The Beatles sent her £5,000 at the time of his death which had been "most helpful", but she had worked as a secretary to support herself since and she could not understand why Sir Paul was stopping her gaining a nest-egg for her final years.

"I didn't know why he would want to do that. It wouldn't be for the money and he lets other people sell, so I don't know why he would want to stop



Can they work it out? Lily Evans and her late husband Mal, who was The Beatles' road manager in the band's heyday (above) back in the Sixties Main photograph: Daily Mirror

mained in his post office job I can have much of a conscience. would have been better looked

Her son backed her, saying: "I think of everything Dad did for him. He'd be on 24 hours notice and he'd do anything for Paul — he loved the guy. To do

But in an angry statement Sir Paul said: "The programme is trying to make The Beatles out to be widow-beaters - nothing

could be further from the truth. "I would like to meet Mrs Evans and discuss this and me," she told the programme. this to my mum now, I just don't come to some arrangement to think it is right. I don't think he see that she is taken care of and

that the lyrics are returned. They were never Mal's lyrics and therefore any relative of Mal's such as Mrs Evans does not have the right of ownership to these lyrics.

To show how ridiculous this whole memorabilia market has become, there is someone in the on the side of people who are USA who owns my own birth doing the ripping off."

certificate. How people can feel that that is right is beyond my comprehension.

"I am surprised that Watchdog is doing this report. thought Watchdog was normally on the side of people who have been ripped off - not

Charles Arthur

Richard Branson and his team-

mates revealed that they had

been only a minute from death

as their Virgin Challenger bal-loon plummeted towards the

ground at 30mph early last Wednesday morning. Yester-

day, the three men declared

themselves happy to be alive and back in Britain, saying they

had had "the most fascinating.

The men were only saved from death by Alex Ritchie, 52,

who clambered in the dark

onto the capsule roof and de-

tached two one-ton propane tanks to lighten the 11-ton bal-

loon and halt the descent. At

that stage they were so close to

the ground they would have been killed even if they had

jumped out.

Mr Branson denied that the

crash in the Algerian desert

meant the attempt to fly around

the world non-stop had been a

failure. "It's not that important

what we are trying to do," he

said. "What matters in the end

is that we're still alive. We find

these challenges irresistible,

He again said that he would

have to think carefully before trying the exploit again. Per

but it's great to be home."

mixed 24 hours in our life".

Science Editor

cause any trouble for Mrs Evans or for her children, whom I remember fondly, but I do feel strongly that these original manuscripts should be returned

to their rightful owners." Sir Paul's lawyers have taken

design was flawed

Lindstrand, a teammate and the

balloon's designer, commented:

"Each time I have flown with

Richard, he has landed and

sworn he will never do it again

They blamed the crash on a

fundamental design flaw in the

huse halloon which meant it

could not keep flying as the tem-perature fell at night.

Mr Branson said: "As it got

dark, the balloon started going

down, we turned the burners up

to try to beat the helium to stop

the descent. That didn't work,

the balloon continued to fall.

We picked up speed, and at

10,000 feet we ballasted, and

then changed his mind."

He added: "I don't wish to until the case over ownership comes to court, which could take up to a year.

His spokesman, Geoff Baker, said Sir Paul had twice offered to help Mrs Evans if she was in hardship, but she had not taken him up on it. He was out an injunction stopping Mrs prepared to make her a "sub-Evans from selling the paper stantial" personal donation.

2.000 feet a minute.

ground was approaching, I might have fumbled things." Mr Lindstrand said that the

balloon's sensitivity to the tem-

perature change as the sun fell

was "quite dramatic". The lift-

ing canopy, with a capacity of

hot-air balloon, intended to heat up the helium to provide

lift. Although earlier tests by Mr Lindstrand on smaller designs

were successful, the full-scale

version had never been tested

before this week's flight. As the

team learnt, the small balloon

could not heat the helium

enough as the outside temper-

that fundamentally the whole

concept works. The difficulty of

heating the belium at night-time

is the only thing that really

needs to be overcome to make

ature fell below freezing Mr Branson said "We know

1.1 million cubic feet, consisted of helium gas around a small

nuclear reprocessing plants operating on an industrial scale in the world. The other two are Sellafield in Cumbria, and Dourreay on the north coast of Scotland. Professor Jean-François Viel, of the department of public

health, biostatistics and epidemiology unit in Besancon, France, investigated risk factors associated with childhood leukaemia in 27 cases in the La Hague area, and compared them with 192 controls of similar but healthy children. While no link was found with

Branson says balloon either mothers' or fathers' occupational exposure to radiation – a hypothesis first put forward in 1990 – Professor Viel says in tomorrow's issue of the British Medical Journal that some lifestyle factors are associated with the development of the disease.

Professor Viel said: "On the ried on board. We then started chucking out water, food and oil whole, some convincing evidence is found of a causal role ... And we found that we confor environmental radiation tinued to go down. At that rate exposure operating through we were seven minutes from hitting the ground, descending at recreational activities on beaches or consumption of fish and Mr Ritchie struck a modest shellfish ... but one explanation note, saying: "Maybe it was just as well it was dark, I probably does not account for all cases, and other exposures such as to radon may play some couldn't see the ground. If I had been able to see how fast the part, maybe even a synergistic

> The public was first alerted to the existence of leukaemia clusters around nuclear plants in the early 1980s. The initial theory was that radioactive pollution in the environment was responsible, although the levels involved were not thought great enough to trigger the disease.

A study by Professor Martin Gardner then suggested that the children of men who worked at Sellafield were more likely to have leukaemia, following their fathers' exposure to radiation before the child was conceived. Another theory was that the influx of new populations to rurmay be linked with the disease.

The new study supports the environmental hypothesis and calls for more research toinvestigate sources of contamination, including marine ecosystems.

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were rapidly getting through most of the ballast that we car-Police 'turn blind eye to criminals'

ate unhindered provided they carry out their illegal activities in other parts of the country, a Home Office report has found, writes Jason Bennetto.

Researchers discovered that some commanders were reluctant to devote resources to investigating known criminals who were not causing problems in their own area. Examples of the practice of turning a blind eye were found in all three mainland forces - Surrey, Bedfordshire and Northumbria - examined. The study, Tackling Cross Border Crime, by the Police Research Group, highlighted the issue as

Senior police officers are allowing criminal gangs to oper-tion between forces.

From analysis of 16 forces in England and Wales, the report estimated that about 10 per cent of all crime was committed by villains crossing into neighbouring force areas, although in some areas it accounted for up to 23 per cent of offences.

It said: "... in one metropolitan force with an organised ring of criminals living in this area but who were committing little crime there, [police] were not prepared to utilise divisional detectives to investigate that ring, even though it was believed that they were committing

DAILY POEM

Woman in a Mustard Field

By Alice Oswald

this work.

From love to light my element was altered when I fled out of your house to meet the space that blows about my head.

The sun was rude and sensible. the rivers ran for hours and whoops I found a mustard field exploding into flowers:

and I slowly came to sense again the thousand forms that move all summer through a living world that grows without your love.

This last selection from the volumes chosen for the TS Eliot Prize shortlist, presented by the Poetry Book Society, comes from Alice Oswald's The Thing in the Gap-Stone Stile (Oxford University Press). The £5,000 prize will be awarded to the winner on Monday by the poet's widow, Valerie Eliot.

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The politicians took Britain into a federal European superstate by deceit.

This is what the government said in it's official White Paper on Britain's entry into Europe "There is no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty".

Edward Heath, the Prime Minister, later added "There are some in this country who fear that in going into Europe, we shall in some way sacrifice independence and sovereignty... These fears, I need hardly say are completely unjustified..."

We now have chilling evidence that these statements were lies.

Well before they were made, Britain's Lord Chancellor wrote the letter shown opposite to Heath emphasising that in his view "the surrenders of sovereignty involved are serious..." and "...ought to be brought out into the open now..."

He pointed out that Parliament would have to surrender to Europe the power to legislate. That European law would be the supreme law of this land. That we would lose our sovereign power to make treaties. And that this would lead to a "fully federal state".

Yet Heath and his close colleagues chose to purposely mislead the British public.

And still, to this day, the lies continue as politicians deny the facts and pour scorn on those who warn of Britain's loss of sovereignty.

Quite deliberately they have arranged for the next European Summit, when the important decisions will be made, to take place after the General Election.

This cynical move allows them to continue deceiving us with empty promises until after it is too late.

By then, the people of Britain will be powerless to prevent the politicians going back on their promises and secretly surrendering our sovereign powers.

We must have a full referendum on Europe now.

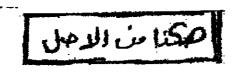
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We must not allow the politicians to deceive us yet again.

REFERENDUM PARTY

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